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THE JOURNAL

of the Lycoming County Historical Society

— *Deeply* ROOTED —

Discovering the Family Trees of Lycoming County



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PHOTO FROM COVER:

Elm Trees In Old Hall Park, East Bergholt, 1817
Drawing By John Constable.

— Foreword —

The Historical Society receives, on average, two hundred distinct gifts per year. A gift can consist of one item or several hundred. One gift, postmarked Eagle River, Wisconsin, was from Marguerite Hanselman and contained a wonderful treasure- the transcript of a journal kept by Martha Bowen, who was born in 1800 in Lycoming County. Her family was among the earliest families to immigrate to Pennsylvania from Europe. Their roots firmly established, the family tree continued to flourish, developing branches of the family throughout Pennsylvania, including Lycoming County, and the Midwest. Martha's Journal contains a running narrative of births, marriages and deaths- all part of the cycle of life. This article lays the groundwork for the other fascinating stories in this issue of our Journal.

We have David Bjorkman's research concerning P.B. Shaw and his alliance with Thomas Edison. Shaw's work on Poco Farm reveals his great respect for Lycoming County soil. Weldon Wyckoff, a baseball player, was another resident who distinguished himself, but in the athletic arena. His legacy has been overshadowed by the team manager of the Athletics Connie Mack. Two of the biographies reveal contributions to the legacy of music with the careers of Marianna Ciraulo, a New York City Opera star and Andrew Venema, musician and opera singer, highlighted. The great American dream is realized with the story of the Ochej family who remained in a displaced persons' camp in Europe during World War II until finally immigrating to the 'land of opportunity' several hundred years after Martha Bowen's family first arrived and settled in the County, continuing the story of the 'trees' of Lycoming County.



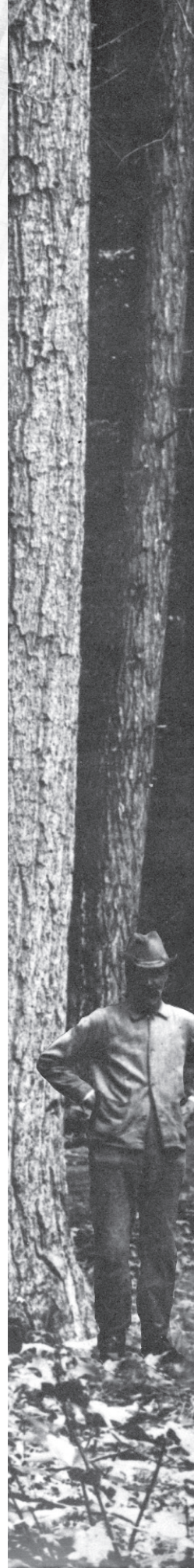
Gracing the Foreword and back cover, trees have played an important role in Lycoming history. The Tiadaghton Elm, according to tradition, was the meeting place for the Fair Play Men who met to formulate their answer to British tyranny. Their declaration of independence was signed on the same day as the more famous one signed in Philadelphia, July 4, 1776. And where would the rich tradition of logging and lumbering be if it were not for the virgin timberland and abundance of forests in the County in the nineteenth century? With a diversity of cultures, architecture and traditions, artists including David Armstrong chose to settle in the County and enjoy the breath-taking beauty of the mountains, the rich abundance of flora and fauna, and the Susquehanna. Serving as inspiration, the County provided a nurturing environment for the artists to capture vignettes of the County in all its beauty.

I know it is a big issue- you won't read it in one sitting. But I hope you will read it! It is filled with all the dynamics of life- birth, education, religion, marriage, children, happiness coupled with sadness, and the continuum of life in Lycoming County... Enjoy!

And all the Best in 2019,

Gary W. Parks

EDITOR



Family Portraits

The Journal of Martha Lewis Walton Grier Bowen (b. 1800-d. 1877)

Diary was transcribed on typewriter by Virginia Slate Orton¹ and George Slate²
re-transcribed by GARY W. PARKS, with additional notes

The Journal of Martha Lewis Walton Grier Bowen is a compendium of life in early Lycoming County. Written in amazing detail, Martha began penning the Journal in 1855, "I have begun to write sketches in it for the information of my Children- which I hope if Providence permit to complete." It covers so many aspects of culture and life. Religion, travel, interfamily relationships, furnishings within a family house, a trip to Philadelphia and shopping for a suitable bonnet, widowhood, illness and death, the interpretation of dreams, and a genealogical treatise of early families of Pennsylvania, are a few of the topics covered. In regard to family, Martha provides a character sketch of virtually every member of her family- sometimes in amusing detail- her Uncle John with a "pug nose", Aunt Elizabeth with "a thick neck and broad shoulders" and Aunt Ann who "was the only one of the family who had decayed teeth." Of interest, the treatment of mentally ill children, proclaimed 'idiots', is spoken of frankly, but with familial compassion. No one that she met during her lifetime was exempt from her writings. Having met Governor Simon Snyder and his family, she declared his daughter 'fat'! She details their attributes so matter-of-factly, that we cannot fault her for being so brutally honest!

A transcription follows, leaving her punctuation and mis-spellings intact. Her eloquence of speech is to be enjoyed, and not modified. We present to you the Journal of Martha Bowen.

"When this blank book was first procured, it was my intention to fill it with painted representations and the history of the- or some of the- indigenous trees and plants of our own country.

I commenced in the year 1830- but as you will discover did not proceed far with my design- not having leisure to devote to that pursuit. Now in 1855 I have begun to write sketches in it for the information of my Children- which I hope if Providence permit to complete- altho I find the paper is not suitable for writing on with a steel pen- having been manufactured when the geese supplied us with pens. M.L.B.

[A prayer follows]

(p.1) Westminster Carol [SIC] County Maryland
December 1855

My dear little Martha Virginia³ if she lives to be old enough will appreciate the motive that induces her "Grandma" to write for her information, and satisfaction, a history of our Family, as far back as my memory and knowledge extends. There may be some mistakes in the Dates but in other particulars it shall be correct. When your dear brother Bowen was with us, I commenced the rough sketches for his benefit- supposing he might travel, and find them useful in enabling him to trace relations, and recognize family connections. After his departure to the "Spirit-land" that were laid aside- I now wish to write them out hoping they may interest my Daughter- and Granddaughter.

It is surprising, I think, that so few persons are careful to preserve Relicks, or Records, which might be useful to their Descendants- to ascertain the average age, peculiarities of constitution- and personal appearances of their Ancestors- would at least gratify an innocent curiosity- so I will try to draw- if circumstances permit.

A GROUP OF FAMILY PORTRAITS

(p.2) Our Paternal Grand-Father Isaac Walton was of English Descent- his Forefathers came to America with the "Friends [Society of Friends - Quakers]" who formed the nucleus [SIC] of Philadelphia.

Grandfather Walton- (i.e. Martha Virginia Wright's Great, Great Grandfather) was a well-formed man, rather below medium stature- of fair complexion, delectate regular features- mild small blue Eyes- Grecian nose- small mouth- placid expression of countenance- reserved manners- expressed his views in few words- seldom smiled, never laughed- neat in his clothes- usually wore the "quaker-drab". Fond of home- seldom left his farm- except to attend the "Friends Meeting"- (The meeting House was three mile distant) or on Hunting excursions- to the hardships and perils of

1 Virginia Slate Orton was born 27 October 1920 and died 17 November 1990. She was the co-typist of this manuscript and mother of the donor, Marguerite Orton Hanselman

2 George Slate was born circa 1920 and died 13 July 1963. He was the co-typist of the manuscript and uncle of the donor, Marguerite Orton Hanselman.

3 Martha Virginia Wright, granddaughter of the diarist was born in Staunton, Augusta County, Virginia 1 September, 1848, the daughter of John Wesley and Anna M. (Grier) Wright. She later married Hyman A. Slate. She died 13 June 1929 and was buried in the Williamsport Cemetery.

which he was indifferent- often encamping out several nights in succession- even after he was advanced in life- He was Temperate- used no Tobacco- Careless about the quality of his food- tho' his wife's care, left him no cause of complaint in that respect- he was as regular as the clock in his habits- at his hour for "bedtime"- he would glide noiselessly to his room- without a "Good-night".

(p. 3) He was habitually an "early Riser"- exercised regularly in the open air- used the Porch for his sitting-room in the Summer- always set by a wood-fire on the hearth in the Winter- When aged- he superintended the "Feeding" kept fat Horses, not stock- not always a plentiful supply of Dry-wood and kindling- a quantity of which he brought into the house every evening at twilight.

Grandfather enjoyed a green old-age- his health was uninterrupted during his whole lifetime, which was over eighty year- with one short exception, which was after he was 70 years of age- he had his head-ache- which was severe- refused to have a Physician called- but sent 14 mile for my Mother- (his Daughter in law) who persuaded him to take a dose of Epsom-Salts- which relieved him and was the only medicine he ever took- we never heard him complain of aches, or pains, his step continued steady- he died unexpectedly- after a short illness. Grandfather's character was ever to me incomprehensible- his complexion indicated (p. 4) a Sanguine, nervous temperament- yet he never appeared excited- always calm- I do not remember ever hearing him reprove or speak harshly to anyone- never observed any manifestation of impatience about him- his brow always smoothe- his expression was not dull- but satisfied. I never thought of being familiar- of kissing him- or resting on his knee- or asking him a question- he dwelt alone in our midst- never evinced any sympathy- in our childish sports, or troubles. We did not fear him- there was nothing disagreeable about him to excite dislike- yet I never loved him as I did my Grandmother.

Respecting Grandfather's religious experience- I know nothing- His moral conduct was irreproachable- presume he embraced the Doctrinal views of the "Friends". After I became a member of the Methodist church, while visiting at his house- I ventured to invite him to go with me to a "Love-Feast"- Contrary to my expectation- he unhesitatingly got his Hat and accompanied me. After we returned, he remarked,

"I always supposed the "Love-Feasts" were something like Catholics confessing their sins to priests- but I

doubt not such meetings as that may be profitable to the soul, perhaps thee did well Martha to join that people." Several years after, feeling anxious to ascertain his spiritual state- I wrote him a letter on the subject- which he never answered. Aunt Elizabeth informed me that she often observed him reading the letter- but he never mentioned its contents. We never met after.

(p. 5) My Grandmother Walton's maiden name was Martha Lewis- of Welch ancestry she was born and brought up in the Neighborhood of Quaker-town, then a village with a post office in Bucks county, Pennsylvania- about thirty miles from the City of Philadelphia. She married and was separated from her Family at the early age of sixteen⁴- There were few American females in that age who received a liberal Education- but the Friends took special pains in the education of Daughters, and Grandmother was quite a scholar- she wrote beautifully, and was an Arithmetician. Her acquirements enabled her to instruct her elder Children before schools were established in the (then) "Back-woods"- and they profited much by her instruction. Grandmother lived and died a quakeress- she wore the peculiar Dress- spoke the language, and practised the systematic and cleanly habits- which are almost universal among the members of the "Society"- but her manner was not quaker-like- she moved quickly, was energetic, sprightly, and talkative.

(p. 6) Grandmother Walton was tall, very erect, and handsome, even at the age when I remember her appearance, high intellectual Forehead- lively, large, prominent dark-blue Eyes, large nose slightly aquiline, a well cut delectate mouth- short upper-lip, fine sound teeth- perhaps rather large- long glossy flax-coloured hair. My Father, and youngest Sister Mary resembled her very much- Having the care of a large-family, and residing on a Farm- her sphere of operation was limited to the "home-circle"- but there her tact and judgement assigned a "place for everything" and her unwearied effort kept "everything in its place".- I think the Bread, pies, cakes, pickles, and all eatables tasted better at her Table than at any other I have eaten.- The Stone-spring-house- how beautifully clean and sweet! The crystal water rippling over the pebbles- and among the Earthen milk-pots- when a child how I loved to accompany her there- and see her skim the cream- and look at the yellow-butter- the big-barrel-Churn- with handle in the end, which turned like a Grindstone- how white it was with its bright brass lid- then the cheese press- the curds and the parings- The

4 Martha Lewis's birth is recorded in the Richland Monthly Meeting records, Bucks County. She was born the 21st day of the 3rd Month, 1754.

Her husband Isaac was born four years earlier. He was twenty and she was sixteen when they married.

"Isaac Walton & Martha his wife brought in a prayer Confessing their having fell into the Sin of in chastity which occasioned their going out in Marriage, Contrary to good Order & Expressing their Sensibility of the Sin & Shame of their misconduct & desiring Friends to pass by their Offense which was read & received." (Richland Monthly Meeting Minutes, 12th month, 19th day, 1772)





Dry-house with its shelves filled with fruit- all of which her vigilance kept in perfect order. I used to feel when there as if peace (*p. 7*) and plenty reigned- For all these good things were for “Home-consumption”- nothing sent to market in those days, but Grain, and fat-Cattle. Grandmother was the mother of twelve Children, all of whom lived to be men and women- except the youngest Joseph- who was younger than several of her Grandchildren, myself included, and died in infancy- she had much comfort in her elder children, but survived her three eldest sons. Three of her youngest sons caused her much sorrow- she enjoyed pure good health until in old age she was afflicted with rheumatism in her back- which sometimes made it difficult for her to rise from her seat- and she lost her cheerful tone of feeling- talked much of her trials- and manifested fretful impatience sometimes under her afflictions- I always loved her, and sympathized with her in all her sufferings- altho I could not see her often in her last years. Grandmother died with Dysentery- after a short illness.

I have not access to the Family-record- but know from calculation she must have been over 70 years of age- Grandfather survived her several years- and retained his equanimity to the last- They both closed their lives at the Homestead- altho they had resided several years in town.

(*p. 8*) Before I proceed with the “Family Portraits:- I will give you a few historical facts which I have received by tradition- When Fathers Parents were married they accompanied Grandfathers elder brother James Walton and his family to the “Backwoods” as the people in the “lower-counties” then called the Country which must have been about the year 1770.- I do not know if their Parents were living when they moved up- but I presume not- and think they must have received their Patrimony- Grandfather was only twenty and his wife sixteen when they married- His brother James was a very different looking man- large- stalwart, with strongly marked features- frank manners- fond of books- he had a Family of nine Children, and survived them all except one son, James- of whose family I may speak again.

The two brothers purchased, at a few shillings an Acre, a large Tract of Land, in Muncy Township of Lycoming County- Pennsylvania, on the west branch of the Susquehannah. James located and built on the river-bank, his farm extended from the river to the public road leading to Williamsport the County-town 14 miles distant- Grandfathers Farm was on the opposite side of the road, and extended from Muncy-creek to the town of Pennsborough⁵.

(*p. 9*) As an inducement to persons to settle near them, they sold land at the cost- each retaining Farms-

Grandfather reserved three- and became rich by the gradual increase in the value of land- he probably selected the Site for his house, on account of a fine, never-failing Spring, near which he build [SIC]. The first house, was superior, I presume, to those generally erected in the “Back-woods” at that time- I have a vivid recollection of the “old-house” and all its belongings- altho I was young when they removed into the “new-house” it never was associated in my mind with so many pleasant remembrances.

The old Log-house, which was separated from the long crooked lane by a “barrs”, for which a Gate has since been substituted- had a broad Porch extending from corner to corner of the Front- surrounded by a railing of rude workmanship- over which the roof of the house extended, which was so steep that it protected the long-bench from the sun and wet, - under this roof, on wooden pegs driven into the logs hung Harness, Saddles- and Farming- utensils. Here often lay Grandfathers (*p. 10*) Pack of well Hounds each of which I could distinguish by name. How I loved to feel their soft ears, and admire their colours, - I thought they were perfect beauties.

The front door opened into the Kitchen- which was a spacious apartment- from the stairs went to the upper story- under which stairs there was a well stored Pantry- in the Centre of the House was a large square stone -chimney of rough masonry- but so often “white-washed” that it looked almost smoothe. The recess on one side was filled up with a Cup-board into which I delighted to peep at the rows of bright spoons stuck thro the edges of the shelves- the big and little glittering pewter-dishes, were my admiration.

There was an enormous “Fire-place” in which in cold weather there was ever a log-fire- roaring and cracking making the Kitchen light, warm, and cheerful.- There was a Hearth of smoothe blue flag-stone- sufficiently large to seat a company of youngsters, on our three leged [SIC] stools- where we cracked nutts- with the Steelyard-weight- “Shell-barks” “Butter-nutts” “Wallnutts” “Chesnutts” all grown on the Farm (or rather the spontaneous products of the Forest) eat “Dough-nutts” (an olde (*p. 11*) fashioned cake) and apples- How good they were! – Amusing each other telling tales- Fables- guessing “Riddles” and taking an occasional Play at “Blind-mans-buff”- or “Pussy wants a corner” or “Barney-butt”- all requiring activity- and affording healthful exercise- Moon-light evenings- we would sometimes go out, provided by Grandmothers care with knit woolen Comforts and “Mittens” to the “Meadow”- and ride down hills on small “Sleds”- drawing them up and riding down alternately- or to the “Pond” and “Skate”- the boys wearing skates and piloting us- but sometimes we preferred skimming

5 Pennsborough later became known as Muncy. The Pennsdale Society of Friends Meeting House is nearby.

over the Ice in our shoes independently- O those were happy times!- our sports in Summer were quite as interesting- Swinging under the big shade trees- playing "Hide and peep" among the Hay-stacks- jumping the grape-vine (better than a rope). Guiding our little bark canoes in the spring-race. Fishing in the "Mill-race"- climbing Trees after fruit- hunting in the "Mow" for Eggs- Thinking about our childish sports almost brings back to my heart the pleasurable sensation of entire satisfaction which I experienced during those (p. 12) visits- which diverted me from describing the dear "Old house"- From the Kitchen we passed into "The room" which was the same size one way, but not so square, it was a long room with a window in each end- here was a "Fire-place" and flagstone hearth too, but of smaller dimensions. Here stood the large heavy Walnut-Table- the feet representing Eagles claws clasping a ball- which I supposed was as much a fixture as the house itself as it always remained in the same spot- the only change was extending the leaves at meal-time- between which and the wall, there was a bench- always as white as sand could make it- this was the children's seat- persons who surrounded the other sides of the Table occupied Chairs- There- on the wall opposite Ticked the old clock- the weights and swinging pendulum exposed- There hung the mirror with its small glass, and wide scalloped wooden-frame. The glass did not hang close to the wall- as has since been the fashion- but was hung high up- and its top suspended some distance from the wall by a cord- the bottom resting on two brass hooks, which answered a double purpose, from one was suspended the big pin-cushion- where there was always a supply (p. 13) of pins for family use- which was certainly preferable to using the Carpet as a place of deposit, for that necessary article, as is the habit of some modern Ladies- If every lady kept such a big Pin-cushion in a convenient place- the oft repeated inquiry- "What becomes of all the pins?" would not remain unanswered.- On the other hung the "Nett-twine ball-bag" containing balls of yarn of various sizes- for darning stockings. Grandma's regular Saturday evenings employment- in which useful habit I still imitate her- Darning neatly was one of the accomplishments taught at the "Friends public school" where she was educated- "Public-school" meant Seminary- Then our State public-schools were not thought of- perhaps- at least they did not exist.

Under the glass- between the cushion and the bag hung the Tin comb-case- resembling a pocket- the combs it contained were regularly used, but ever clean. These were the only ornaments on the white-washed walls- which were not intended for decoration but for use- yet in my estimation they were beautiful embellishments- particularly the square of "flowered paper" pasted behind the glass and its fixtures- that primitive custom- I now suppose, was intended as protection from damp.

(p. 14) The round "candle-stand"- high backed split-bottomed Chairs- arranged in straight rows- at exactly

equal distances around the wall- completed the furniture of "The room"- except a few breadths of Domestic manufactured Carpet- so arranged as to expose the white floor, and bright wrought iron- And-irons- for there were no Foundries- there then- What a surprising change has been effected in the Country- the People- their houses- tastes- and habits during the last half century-

The room was used as Parlor, Dining and sitting-room, yet it like every other part of the "old-house" was kept scrupulously neat- so clean- the sun-beams loved to peep in- and the bright windows tho small admitted them freely.

There was yet another long room on the lower floor of the "old house"- used as a Chamber, a bed in each end- I used to think the gaudy red and blue Coverlets were not in keeping with their small quaker-taste. This room had only one window which opened into the Garden- Roses, and sweet briar grew near it- I recollect gliding in there to look out at the perfusion of Poppies- mary-golds, and other common Annuals, which grew there in borders around the Vegetables- How pretty they looked!- altho my more cultivated taste could not now be pleased with such a (p. 15) motley arrangement- It was seldom I ventured in there except when the flowers tempted me- for I had a feeling of reverence for that room- I was quite conscious, tho no one said so- it was the Family Bethil- There- was the little square- stand, covered with a white-cloth on which lay the Bible- that big mysterious Book- which I did not venture to touch- I had often caught glimpses of Grandfather in there, seated near the window- with the open Book on the stand- his head resting on his hand- his position and stillness conveyed the impression to my mind that he was oftener meditating then reading- on "First days" my elder Aunts went in there- one at a time- always alone and read aloud in a "sing song tone" which I suppose they learned at "Friends meeting".

In there- was a high "Chest of Drawers" (now called Bureau) which reached almost to the ceiling- into the secrets of the little upper drawers I never was initiated- tho I often wondered old curiosities- "brought from home"- they contained.- Once Grandmother took out her "Cyphering book"- a book in which all the "Sums" done at school were written down- with the "Rules" and "Examples"- The book was without a blot- the lines drawn so exactly (p. 16) I admired it so much that I formed a resolution to make one like it- when I got old enough to go to school and have arithmetic- A resolve which I never lost- until I had accomplished my purpose- much to the surprise of my school-mates- who never understood my motive for so much useless labour- Even then I think I entertained an expectation that sometime I would have Grand-children to be pleased with my book- which I now realize. The old "cyphering-book" in the Portable-desk- has lost all its interest except the



association in my mind, but I am writing this my dear Martha Virginia for your information and amusement- which perhaps I should not thought of doing- but for the incident I have related- no doubt many of our actions in after life are attributable to early impressions- when we are not conscious of the connection. Many of the names- by which things were designated in olden times- I have marked as quotations as they require explanation to

four elderly friends- to see that all things are conducted orderly-

(p. 18) My respected Father Ellis Walton was the first born (September 21, 1771) The Country was then thinly populated, and no School convenient. He was early taught to assist in farming, and his mother diligently instructed him as far as she was capable. Father often told me about the happy winter evenings of his boyhood- when his mother heard their lessons- examined their sums, and listened to their reading (I heard Grandma say he was always fond of study)- while thus teaching his elder children, she was busily engaged knitting warm stockings for their feet.-

Father was almost a man before he attended school and then only for a short time- yet he was a good English scholar- a mathematician- understood Navigation, and practiced surveying- When a lad he formed a friendship with two educated young men who brought a Store to the neighborhood- and discovering they had a knowledge of subjects of which he was ignorant- he resolved to acquire more information- they readily instructed him- thus

by the assistance of books, and friends, he persevered in acquiring an education- spending his leisure-days, and winter evenings with his friends at the Store- he gained so much knowledge of the business as enabled him with a trifling Capital- procuring credit from the Philadelphia Merchants- to commence a Store himself.

(p. 19) He succeeded well in the mercantile business- considering the disadvantages under which he labored- and the credit system then prevailing so extensively, - I do not know how long he continued in business- but he experienced the benefit of his former diligence in acquiring a knowledge of Figures- When a boy engaged in ploughing, his thoughts he said, were habitually occupied by some useful study- he used to carry "soap-stones" in his pocket- calculate the sum in his mind- then stop and try if it would prove- in the evening he would show his Mother how many questions he had mastered. Thus he became expert at "mental-arithmetic."

When Father concluded to study law- he acquainted his creditors- (the merchants in Philadelphia)- fully with the state of his concerns and asked their indulgence, and permission to study law- which they granted and encouraged him to do so,- Accordingly he closed up his business- went to Williamsport- then a new County-town- boarded with Grandfather Huston and studied with his eldest son, Uncle Charles Huston- then a single man living with his Parents who at that time boarded a number of young Gentlemen Lawyers and other, who had gone to that new Country [SIC] to seek their fortunes- (three of the number afterwards married three of their Daughters)- during which time (p. 20)



Pennsdale Meeting House

make them intelligible to you- the description of things so different from your City home will be new to you- I think Children in the Country enjoy their pure and simple pleasures best- and are more likely to appreciate the "beautiful in nature"- yet in some respects you have greater advantages- My Parents resided in Pennsborough during my early childhood- but after our removal to Williamsport- I was more associated with Grandfather Hustons family- about whom I want to tell you many things too.

(p. 17) I have tried to show you the "Old-house" in which your Great Grandfather Ellis Walton was born, and which was home during childhood and youth- and was the birthplace of his six brothers, and five Sisters- there too his two brothers William and Joseph expired, and the marriage festivities of his three elder Sisters were celebrated- They married in the meeting-house.- Marriages are great occasions among the friends- they usually invite large companies- and make expensive entertainments as they have for other Parties, or Feasts- when they The Gentleman and his bride after sitting in solemn silence about an hour, rise up suddenly in the presence of the Congregation- and he says- "I take this my friend A.B. to be my true and lawful wife- promising to be unto her a faithful and loving Husband, until death shall separate us. Then she repeats the same- when they resume their seats- and sign the marriage certificate, the bride assuming his name- after which the Clerk of the meeting reads it aloud- and then persons present write their names as witnesses- Thus they are married. Invited Guests return home with them- accompanied by

he formed an acquaintance with my mother- soon after he was admitted to the Bar- they were married.- (December 14, 1799)- He informed mother previous to their marriage that he was in debt. She had so much confidence in his integrity studious and industrious habits, that she did not fear for his success- and she was not disappointed.- They went to reside in a house in which Mr. Tunison Coryell⁶ now resided, and which is still in good repair- in which house I was born October 14, 1800. Grandfather gave mother furniture for only a part of the house.

Father was successful in business- and often when he had a sum of money would ask his wife- "Jane shall we furnish the empty rooms, or pay the debts with this money?" Mothers constant reply was- pay all the debts first.- They had been only four years married when Father one day informed her, that he owed "no man anything but love"- which was the case when he died, about ten years after- leaving his Family comfortably provided for.

When I was one year old they removed to the town of Pennsborough (now Muncy) where Father made money rapidly as a Scribe- and still attended the Courts at Williamsport. He purchased the house in which they lived in Muncy- a large frame- four large rooms, and a wide Hall, on the lower floor- it is still there- in it our only brother Charles (p. 21) Huston Walton was born (May 14, 1803)- he was three years younger than I- and died unexpectedly in a spasm- when an infant.- There too my Sister Jane Huston Walton was born July 15, 1806 and is still living- the widow of Dr. James Teas.

Father was appointed by Governor Simon Snyder⁷ (about 1808) Prothonotary- Recorder- and Clerk of the several Courts for Lycoming County- then much larger than it is now- which offices he continued to fill until his death, being reappointed when his term of Office expired- The Offices are now divided between three persons- who are elected by the people- Father after he was appointed to those offices returned with his family to Williamsport- having purchased a house there- in which my youngest Sister Mary Ellis Walton was born September 21, 1809 who was about four years old when we were distressed, by death, of our kind and excellent Father who died September 9, 1813- Aged 42 years- with the Liver disease- I recollect our Father well. I loved and respected him more than I ever did any other individual- altho I have been warmly attached to many of my relations and Friends- I (p. 22) thought he was one of the best- and wisest- and handsomest

men in the world- and considered his opinions infallibly correct.- He instructed- conversed- and rode with me- played and run races with me for exercise- and was my almost constant and favorite companion. I confided to him all my childish griefs and pleasures, his approbation was the reward I sought in all my efforts- the last few years of his life- I accompanied Him to the Office daily, and assisted In recording- and in all his Journeys on business or pleasure, rode with him in the "Gig", a Vehickle than much used- having only two large wheels- and "Calash-top" which could be raised or put down at pleasure.- Our dear Mothers health was delicate- and her attention occupied by the two young Children- altho she sometimes accompanied us in our pleasant walks and excursions.

Much of the good advice and many of the directions my Father strove to impress on my "mind" are still fresh in my memory. Many of his casual remarks have influenced my decisions and conduct thro life-

I am thankful to the Author of all good, that I ever had such a Father,- O' I felt so lonely- so bereaved- when he was gone- that was my first and greatest sorry.- My Sisters were too young to realize their loss- I was thirteen- and remember all the circumstances of his death- of that last pitying look- which said to my heart- (p. 23) "you will be without a Father to guide and instruct you- to love and care for you". O the agony of that last kiss.

If I was an artist I could paint the face of my beloved Father Ellis Walton from memory. I heard Mother say when they were first united Father had "red cheeks and a very healthy appearance" but when I remember him he was pale as marble.- I often call to mind his large, high white forehead- handsome roman nose- arched Eye-brows, large dark blue eyes- beaming with kindness- thin lips somewhat compressed, giving an expression of decision and firm purpose to his mouth- large white teeth, which were sound when he died- which was remarkable, as he had been several times deeply salivated- tho pale, his face was always full, and his limbs fleshy or at least plump- he was above the middle size- broad shoulders, and firmly built- Father took a severe cold about the year 1799- by assisting a neighbor, a short distance from town, to "fire against a fire" in order to save his property. He got overheated- which caused an attack of Pleurisy after which, he was always delicate in health.

(p. 24) [a description of fighting fire with fire appears, concluding with "when the two fires meet their progress is arrested"]

6 Tunison Coryell (b. 13 June, 1791- d. 8 August 1881) was a 'Renaissance' man in the growth of Williamsport and Lycoming County. He was instrumental in the development of the West Branch Canal and the development of other modes of transportation- the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad and the National road. In 1821, he purchased the Lycoming Gazette, tripling its readership in three years before retiring to pursue other interests including banking, serving as prothonotary of the county, and organizing and leading the Williamsport Gas Company.

7 Simon Snyder was Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. His house remains standing in downtown Selinsgrove.





Our Father was a man of unsullied character- respected and beloved by his acquaintances- he was always very economical in his habits- but ever ready to assist a friend in difficulty, and give to the needy.- He often loaned money to relieve persons in business where he had little prospect of receiving it again- but he was fortunate in this respect.- I remember many occurrences of the kind. Mr. S--- (p. 25) A printer who sometimes drank too freely- called and asked the loan of one dollars- Father replied- If I believed it would do you any good you should have it but S--- you will drink, and then neglect your business—The man answered “Walton I promise you there shall never a drop of liquor go down my throttle until I have returned you the money- Father then said “on that condition you shall have it most cheerfully”- The man kept his promise.

There was no “Temperance Societies” in existence then- or at least we had never heard about them- Intemperance was very prevalent- yet Father was a decided temperance man inculcating temperance principles, by precept and example.

I recollect one day Mr. Frank Campbell⁸- a young lawyer called- Father treated him to a glass of molasses beer- After he had left- I inquired- “Father when Gentlemen visit you- why do you not set out the Decanters? With Brandy, wine, etc... as uncle H.—uncle T.—and all the other gentlemen do?” His answer I have never forgotten- My Daughter the reason is- I will not have the sin on my conscience (p. 26) of making drunkards- Why Father How would that make drunkards?- Young men drink at first to avoid being thought singular—or as a compliment to those who treat them- thus they gradually acquire a taste or fondness for liquor which increases by indulgence, until that become drunkards.- I was satisfied and never felt mortified at Fathers singularity in that respect after that but admire his moral courage.

The Political parties which existed then were distinguished as Democrats and Federalists- Father was a Democrat- and altho he took an interest in politics- he never instructed me on that subject- so that I am unable to state the difference in the principles of the two Parties.

I believe my Father to have been a pious man, and hope to meet him in Heaven- altho he was not a member of any religious denomination- in which respect I could not recommend his example- The old adage “circumstances alter cases”- may be an apology for that imission- He had a birth-right membership in the “Friends Society”- but when he married a wife who was of a Presbyterian family he of course was not (p. 27)

“married in meeting”.- When the committee of friends waited on him- he refused to say (from conscientious scruples) that he felt “sorry he had violated the rule respecting marriage- as he would- he said- do that same thing again if undone[”]- of course- he forfeited his membership- He did not use the plain language- or costume of the Quakers- As he lived among and was associated with the Presbyterians- he attended that Church usually, but not fully embracing their doctrinal views, he never united with them.- He occasionally rode fourteen miles to attend Friends meeting- on those occasions I accompanied him- and remember several kind agreeable families who used to invite us home with them to dine- sometimes we went to Grandfathers- but usually returned home the same day.- The Methodist Ministers I think were his favourite preachers- for he embraced every opportunity of hearing them- I have heard him express his approval- They did not preach regularly in Williamsport during his residence there.

I infer that Father was experimentally religious- not from his moral rectitude alone- but from my recollections of the instructions I received from him, on the (p. 28) duty- and nature of prayer- On our obligation to love God- and act with reference to his will etc. One lovely Summer evening we were seated at the “front-door” observing the neighbours friendly Cows comming home- each Cow wore a bell- and they marched in single file along the centre of the main Street- turning and stopping when they arrive at their owners doors- where they were milked.- As we were enjoying the rural scene- (which would appear almost incredible to persons now residing in the house- the cows were taught better manners long before I left there- walked in alleys- and were milked in Stables)- Father said- Daughter- if God should now promise to give you whatever you most desire- What would you ask for?- I replied- that I might be good- and go to the good-place when I die- Well my daughter- that is a wise wish- for if it is really your strongest desire it will be granted you- but how will you become “good”- and fit for Heaven?- By praying and trying- true- do you pray? Yes- Daughter there is a vast difference between praying and saying prayers- Prayer is the earnest desire of the heart- he then drew me unto his lap- and spoke feelingly of the Saviours love- altho I did not fully comprehend- I wept.

(p. 29) I heard mother say—Father awoke her once in the night and informed her- he believed he had received the “baptism of the Holy-ghost, and felt such a love for souls, that he would like to preach the Gospel”- One evening when Mother and I were walking out with him- he remarked- “all things are at peace with me.”

After we retired (one evening a few months before

8 Frank Campbell is probably the Honorable Francis C. Campbell, a native of York, PA. Admitted to the Bar in August 1810, he came to Williamsport in April 1812. He married Jane Hepburn, daughter of James Hepburn. He practiced law for fifty years before his retirement. He died April 21, 1867 (Meginness, *History of Lycoming County*, p. 292)

his death) to our Chamber- I informed him that I had learned some pretty verses from my friend Lucy Priestly, he requested me to repeat them- and said “they are good- but not as good as verses I committed to memory when a boy- which I did not then understand- but which are now an expression of my experience”- he then feelingly repeated “The hiding place”,- We afterwards found it written in one of his old books.

Father had several long spells of illness- but was only confined to bed two days in his last sickness. He had often gone to the Court-house with a blister on his side and attended to business- Calomel was a favourite remedy with his Physician.-

(p. 30) Several years previous to his death- after speaking in the Court- he walked into the house of Uncle John Turk- which was on the corner the C-house and there threw up a quantity of blood- the supposition then was, that he had ruptured a blood-vessel in his lungs- but the Doctors decided after- that it proceeded from an Abscess on his liver- It was I think the third attack of the kind- (except that the discharge of blood was from the bowels instead of the stomach)- which occasioned his death September 9, 1813. ... [short reflection on death omitted]

(p. 31) The second son James Walton- I have heard- so much resembled his eldest brother- than when children, strangers supposed them to be twins. I have no recollection of Uncle James. He married young- a Miss Jane Paxton of Bucks County who was a beautiful woman.- They resided on his Fathers Farm at Muncy Creek, and he had charge of the Flour and Saw-Mill (there is now a Factory on the site) where he died after a brief illness- with inflammation of the bowels- I suppose his age to have been between twenty-five and thirty- leaving a Widow [&] two Daughters Mary Ann, and Martha- who went to reside with Grandfathers family- where they lived until the widow married Mr. Joab McCarty- (by whom she had several children) who owned a Farm a few miles distant.- I recollect their wedding, which I attended with my Parents in the “Old house”.- I remember the pretty blushing bride- what a lovely complexion she had- the sumptuous dinner, and the young people playing “Sister Phebe” “Jacobs-Ladder” etc.- also the “In-Fair” at the “Big white house” I visited the family several times previous to the year 1818- when they (p. 32) removed to the vicinity of Dayton, Ohio- taking Uncle James’s two Daughters with them- The family stopped a day at Mothers in Williamsport on their way out. One of the young Ladies- (my cousin) married Dr. J. Watson from Philadelphia with whom I was acquainted- a handsome and agreeable young man- who studied medicine with Dr. Thomas Wood Sen.? of Muncy. The other I was informed married a respectable merchant- I have forgotten his name- all live in Ohio.

The third son William Walton never married- he was

called “old bachelor” but he could not have lived over about 35 years, for I presume he was about three years younger than Father- if so- he must have been born A.D. 1774. He died I think in 1809. My recollection of uncle William is indistinct. He was a small man- at least I remember he had a little thin face- sharp features- dark brown eyes- and large red whiskers- he was not handsome I believe. I never heard that there was anything remarkable in his character- he was retiring- staid at home- and worked on the Farm- Father left home for Philadelphia a few days after which he wrote to Mother- who informed me that had stopped at Grandfathers, found his brother William very sick- remained until he was buried- and then went on his journey. That is all I know of Uncle William.

(p. 33) Their fourth child- and eldest Daughter Hannah Walton resembled her Father in form and feature- she was a very pretty little woman. In her disposition were combined the equanimity and patience of her Father, with the vivacity and energy of her Mother. She was born ____ and is living- tho an elderly woman when I last visited them twelve years ago- she was active and cheerful- she had always enjoyed excellent health. Aunt Hannah is an admirable woman. She married William Watson a quaker Gentleman from Delaware County- he is a tall masculine looking man- with a strong constitution for the several years older than Aunt, he was living recently- and I presume is still. I always thought Uncle Watson was a model Husband and Father- He purchased and settled on a Farm- situated on the eastern bank of the Susquehanna River- (near the “Warriors Spring” about which there exists an old legend), just below James Waltons farm- one mile from the town of Muncy- where he erected a good stone-house and barn- where they resided (p. 34) many years and raised a family of seven children- Two Sons, and five daughters.- Aunt Hannah imitated her mother in house-keeping- and providing plentifully for the Table tho her Husband was opposed to her working hard- and provided her help to prevent her from over-taxing her strength. Uncle was a Model Farmer too- and every thing was abundant about their home.- After their Children were married and had left the Parental roof- except for the two youngest- (Bidgood and Ann- of whom I never had much knowledge)- Uncle Watson sold his farm- and bought a home at Fishing-Creek- where they now reside- and after reserving a support for himself and wife- divided the rest of his property equally among his children- about 1840.

Phebe their eldest daughter, was a few months younger than I and a favorite associate of my childhood- she was tall and slender- looked very like her Father- not handsome tho agreeable in appearance and an excellent woman- she married Dr. Hartley and accompanied him to Ohio. The last time we met was in 1827- when she and the Doctor visited us in Williamsport the first year





Mr. Bowen⁹ and I kept house after our marriage- Cousin Phebe died a few years after leaving two daughters. I was informed that Dr. Hartley was education [sic] them very carefully- and did not appear disposed to marry again.

(p. 35) Martha Watson their second daughter was very unlike her Sister Phebe, in disposition- she was fond of gaiety and company- a very pretty and interesting girl- medium size- regular features- fair complexion- soft brown eyes- very sprightly- admired by the Gentlemen from whom she received flattering attentions- her Parents were afraid she would marry some they did not approve, and when she was addressed by Mr. William Whitaker- whose Father and Uncle Watson were friends and associates- he was a quaker farmer too- in good circumstances- they promoted the Match- and Martha was married young. My Sister Jane and I attended the wedding in 1822.- There was a large company- among whom I noticed several lovely young quakeresses- whose gay manners did not correspond with their plain dress. After Dinner the company disbursed- several groups went out under the Shade trees on the river-bank and amused themselves by singing songs- and in various ways- out of hearing of the “committee of vigilance”- in the evening they left and then youngsters romped to their hearts content. Dr. Joseph Watson- Uncles nephew- was one of the attendants. The Gentleman who afterwards married Uncle James’s daughter in Ohio.

(p. 36) The two families were delighted with the alliance- but there was not much congeniality I fear between the young married couple. Their Parents provided for them and settled them on a farm- I was once at their house- they appeared to be living comfortably- but too retired I thought to suit cousin Martha’s taste. A few months before the birth of their second child- it was decided that Martha should go to her Fathers a week or two for the purpose of drying fruit- making Apple-butter etc. Mr. Whitaker accompanied her there- and no one suspected anything amiss. When the day arrived on which he was to come and take her home again- he did not appear- Martha became very anxious- and her Father went with her- Mr. W.- was absent, the hired girl said- he left a few days before and instructed her to tell Martha he was gone to Milton on business and would be away a week. They were surprised- but not uneasy- until the time had expired, and he did not return. He disappeared so mysterious that diligent search and every means was used to trace him- but strange as it was they could not gain any information respecting his rout. They travelled long distances in search of him in vain- once they heard of a man calling himself Wm. Wilson- who answered to his description- who had died among strangers.

He left home on horse-back leaving his property behind- no debts or difficulties- that was ascertained- Martha said he had always treated her kindly and was fond of the child.

(p. 37) There were various conjectures and surmises- but all uncertain. Several weeks after his disappearance- Martha found a note in the drawer—written by him- saying he was going where his family would never hear from him- and they never did.—He assigned no reason, for doing so- poor Martha was found in a swoon, with the crumpled note in her hand- It had deprived her of hope. She and her two children returned to her Fathers- her buoyant spirits were broken- the rose faded from her cheek- she lived retired. Their Daughter Charlotte died suddenly with inflammation of the brain- when about fourteen years of age- which was the first affliction of the kind in their family.

Isaac their eldest son- was as much like Grandfather Walton in person- as it was possible for a Youth to be like an old man- but he was more frank and spritely in his manner- than I should suppose Grandfather ever to have been- he married young- his wife is a daughter of Mr. George Roberts of “Loyalsock” and they went out to the State of Ohio to reside.

(p. 38) In the year 1826—Martha—her brother Isaac and their Sister Alice—and a young woman who lived in the family all embraced religion and united with the Methodist Episcopal Church- while Mr. Bowen had charge of the “Lycoming Circuit”—Their Parents did not oppose them in doing so.- Soon after Uncle Watson visited our house and telling us how zealous they were- how the four had prayer- meetings after he and Aunt retired at night- and how they walked to meeting when the horses were busy, etc., -- Mother said “probably their zeal will soon cool.” He replied- much to our surprise—“That is what I fear- Jane—I fear it is too good to last always.”

Alice resembled Phebe—but not so tall- she was diffident and unassuming- She married Mr. Young an itinerant Minister- and went to the Western Country- Some years after Martha married Mr. A. Lyon and moved out West too—a step I did not approve- while her (p. 39) first husbands whereabouts remained a mystery- altho she believed him to be dead- which was most probable—Martha and Alice—accompanied by Rev. ____ Young visited us in the Summer of 1841 in Milton Pa. at the time Mr. Bowen traveled that Circuit.—Aunt Hannah visited her children in the West several times, but I have forgotten their direction.

(p. 40) Alice Walton was rather tall- fair skin- dark eyes and hair. She was said to have been a beautiful girl, but

⁹ Mr. Bowen was the Reverend John Bowen. According to the *Lycoming Gazette*, 11 April, 1827, their marriage was recorded, “Rev. John BOWEN, of the ME Church to Mrs. Martha, widow of the late Dr. M. B. GRIER, of this Borough, in this Borough on Thursday last, by the Rev. SMITH”

when I remember her, she had a sad, and care-worn look which spoiled the expression of her face. She married with flattering prospects- her husband Thomas Green was her own cousin- her Fathers sisters son—he was an agreeable gentlemanly man, of good habits, and of considerable property. He erected a comfortable house in the town of Pennsborough, on the Lot adjoining her Fathers farm, where he kept a Drygood, China and grocery Store- and resided for some years.

Alas! Their two eldest children, Martha and Hannah were Idiots¹⁰ which was a great affliction—their third child Evans, was a boy of remarkable precocity- so that persons said he had all the intellect that should have been divided among the three- His Parents doted upon him, but he was called away from them in childhood- They had four younger Children, two sons, and two daughters who lived to be a comfort to their Parents and are now the only survivors.

(p. 41) About the year 1815 her husband sold his house and Store-room to her Father, and purchased the mill- and Stone house on the hill, not far from the Friends Muncy meeting house, and resided there- where they erected an additional building, surrounded by a high enclosure, and containing two rooms, for the accomodation of their two eldest daughters, in which had a bed, rocking-chair and small table. They kept a woman whose business it was to wash, dress, feed and attend to them.—Aunt was always very tender with them, and kept them very neat and clean—she was a woman of cleanly habits—Their stove was surrounded by lattice-work to prevent them from burning themselves- altho both idiotic- both mutes, there was a striking contrast between the two sisters- Martha was thin and delicate, her expression indicated anguish and imbecility, her habit was to rock in her chair and moan—They were obliged to keep her separate from her Sister, as she had often an inclination to scratch and abuse her, and small children—Hannah on the contrary was fat, red cheeked, and healthy in appearance- wore a happy laughing expression (p. 42) of a very docile and affectionate disposition often kissing and patting her friends- very fond of children- she was permitted to pass through the house, as she was never vicious or mischievous, indeed she was sweet and innocent as a baby—Each of their rooms opened into a separate yard to which they had access in summer. They lived to be grown, but both died before 20 years of age.

After their removal to the mill, Uncle lost his health, and died of consumption, about the year 1828- leaving his Widow and four children in rather reduced

circumstances.—Their Daughter Matilda Green was a fair and lovely girl, she married young, and accompanied her husband, whose name I have forgotten, to the state of Ohio.

Mr. Bowen- sister Jane and I visited Aunt Alice in 1838- she – her son Thomas, who was very like his Father- and her daughter Jane composed the family at that time. They were then living very comfortably at Hughesburg, Pa. and Aunt appeared more cheerful than I ever remembered to have seen her- Thomas was doing business on commission.

(p. 43) Jane Green was educated at Weston Seminary¹¹, and Teaching at the time of our visit. She excelled in Penmanship- and was a pretty- modest, intelligent and interesting girl- quite young- and blooming- I admired her. A few years after I heard Matilda and her husband induced the family to remove to them in Ohio.

In the summer of 1844- while Mr. Bowen was stationed at Williamsport, Pa. the 2nd time- Cousin Thomas and Jane Green visited us there- and informed us that they were pleased with the West- Aunt was still living- enjoying good health- she and Jane were residing with Matilda- and comfortably situated. Matilda's husband and brothers were partners in business- in which they were prosperous- and that all Aunt Alice's children had embraced religion and become members of the Methodist E. Church. That as there was no friends Meeting in the immediate vicinity, their Mother often accompanied them to Meetings, and was pleased. Since which time, I have had no intelligence from the Family.

(p. 44) Isaac Walton Junior was properly named, for although he was a heavier man, and not so handsome as his Father, he inherited more of his characteristics than anyone of his sons. He was sober, silent, retiring, and industrious- was a Farmer, and imitated his Fathers habits, yet in face and figure there was but a slight resemblance to either of his Parents. He possessed his Fathers equanimity.- Grandfather willed Uncle Isaac the homestead farm, on which he resided until his death which occurred in 1843- about the 63rd year of his age, Dr. Rankin who was his attendant physician, and a religious man, informed me that he had conversed with him in his last sickness, and believed he was a Christian. Mr. Bowen, my Sister Mrs. Teas, and I, visited the family in 1839- Uncle appeared so much pleased to see us, and was so kind, that I felt a strong attachment for him. – His wife Ellen, was corpulent, the very picture of contentment and indolent good nature.- Tho an amiable woman, she was deficient in house-keeping. The house

10 Mental illness was not understood in the 19th century. People dealing with mental illness were often referred to as 'idiots' or inflicted with 'idiocy' in census records and other official records.

11 Weston Seminary was undoubtedly the Westtown Boarding School, a school administered by the Society of Friends in Chester County, PA. It was founded in May 1799 and flourishes today. The Friends believed both females and males should receive an education. Known for its scholastic excellence, the School was also a noted school for the production of needlework samplers by the female students. Jane's name does not appear in the listing of boarding students, but perhaps she was considered a day student.





and its surroundings wore a very different aspect under her superintendence, from what they had done during Grandmothers lifetime.

(p. 45) They had two sons, and several daughters- five- I think. Two of them were very pretty girls- resembled their Aunt Alice- Their eldest son was born about the time of our Fathers death, and received his name- Ellis, which I do hope he may honour. When quite a youth he went to the “Western Country” to seek his fortune- I heard he was a promising boy- his Mother said he was “doing well” there.

After Uncles death, I heard the family moved there too- but I do not know their whereabouts.

I have led such a wandering life for the past 28 years, as an itinerant ministers wife- that I found it impractical to keep up a correspondence with our numerous relations. I often feel that it would be gratifying to hear from them.- I have written quite as many letters as was consistent with the performance of other duties.

It is now one month since these “Portraits” were commenced- I meet with so many interruptions that I cannot write with the care, and forethoughts I desire. I forgot to tell you that after Aunt Elisabeths marriage- Grandfather lived the balance of his days with his son Isaac’s family.

(p. 46) Ann Walton was a slender delicate woman. I cannot delineate her character- Mother said Aunt Ann was her favorite sister in law, and had more taste, and a greater fondness for reading and improving her mind, then either Aunt Hannah or Alice, but she was not so fair and handsome as her Sisters- she was the only one of the family who had decayed teeth- she was active and possessed a fine flow of spirits- and I heard Mother say she was a very agreeable companion- She married a farmer Mr. Andrew Cooper, who was an intimate associate of the Mr. McCarty who married Uncle James’s widow- they often visited Grandfathers house in company- and addressed their wives at the same time- I visited them in 1814- they then had a little Daughter- about six years of age- their only one- Mary Ann- she was a pretty- very bright and sprightly child. Soon after they removed to the State of Ohio- I have not heard from them for a long time.

Thus far there has been nothing in the family to cause the blush of mortification- but the three younger brothers- were quite different persons. The poet says “Honor and shame from no condition rise, Act well your part, thine all the honor lies.”

(p. 47) David Walton was the victim of intemperance-

To which vice he was not addicted until several years after his marriage. All the efforts of his friends to rescue him were unavailing- he was the slave of appetite and for several years previous to the close of his life, was a confirmed inebriate- yet he was even then, good-humoured and unoffensive- but so entirely useless to his family that his Parents took him home but could never influence him to relinquish the habit. During his protracted illness, his afflicted Mother nursed him with so much kindness and assiduity, as if his sickness had not been of his own procuring- but Alas! Alas! He went down to a “drunkards grave”.

The last time I looked upon him- I was there on a visit- when about leaving Grandmother inquired if I was going “away without seeing my poor Uncle David”. I went into his room- for he was then confined to bed- every thing in the room looked so neat and comfortable- a cheerful fire on the hearth- that I felt reassured, and approaching the bed, found he recognized me, and tried to converse with him about the interest of his soul- but his mind as well as body- was a complete wreck.

(p. 48) Whenever I hear of a Mothers disinterested love, I think of that scene. He left a widow, two sons, and four daughters. George his eldest son, was a sober, industrious, well disposed youth- he married a widow lady Mrs. Tharp- who was older than him, and the Mother of several children- she was a Methodist, and cousin George became a member of the Church. They went out to the far west about the year 1829.

Divinna his eldest daughter—(i.e. D.W. daughter) married Mr. — Roberts- who was cousin Isaac Walton’s wifes brother. Soon after her marriage- she embraced religion and became a member of the M.E. Church. She was converted at the Jersey-Shore Camp-meeting in the year 1828. They also removed to the State of Ohio where her Sister Mary with her husband, Mr. Warner, had gone before- I heard that Mr. Warner was a prosperous farmer there. Martha Walton, the third sister- was a fair-haired cheerful girl- very fond of dress- she married Thomas Johnson- whose Mother Rachel Johnson was Grandfather Waltons niece- of course her Fathers cousin. Thomas and his Mother lived in a neat Cottage in Muncy during our childhood- we were associates, and I entertained for him a Sisterly affection.

(p. 49) Thomas was fond of books- I delighted in visiting her Cottage and hearing him read—“Janeways Token for Children”¹² from which I received the first religious impressions- we were always good friends in childhood. After we left Muncy—his Mother married a second time- Mr. Silcott a widower. Thomas and I never met but once after he was a man- he was an intelligent,

12 From the British Library, Collection Online: Janeway, James, 1636?-1674 *Janeway’s Token for Children: Being an account of the conversion, holy and exemplary lives and joyful deaths of several young children. James Janeway wrote this book to provide examples from the lives and ‘joyful deaths’ of children so that the reader could learn how to avoid Hell and attain Heaven. It’s perhaps hard to imagine the appeal for*

and energetic young man of prepossessing appearance. Soon after he came in from the west, he married cousin Martha and returned to Ohio. At the last intelligence- Martha's Mother and her youngest Sister, Ann, resided with them.

David Walton Jun. very much resembled his Sister Martha- fair hair and complexion and when a boy inclined to be foppish- he left home when quite a youth- and I am ignorant of his location and history.

Grandfather- after the old English custom- left his landed estate to his son Isaac- and divided the balance of his property among his daughters who were living- I believe none of his Grandchildren- who were orphans- received their Parents Patrimonies.

(p. 50) Margaret Walton- was Fathers fourth Sister- she was of medium size, symmetrical figure- red hair- skin of soft texture, and white as alabaster- I heard a Gentleman remark- he never saw features so perfect as hers- her eyes were full- dark blue- She was of a very amiable and agreeable disposition. She married Mr. Neal- a cabinetmaker, in the year 1817- and resided next door to her Father in Muncy- she had two sons- George and Ellis- who both resembled her Father- When I last met them in 1844- they resided in Montoursville near Loyalsock- Lycoming Co. Pa.

Aunt Margaret was left a widow when her second son Ellis, was a babe. After the death of her Mother, her Father returned to live in his town-house, and she became his housekeeper- and he was very fond of her boys. After she was a widow she became religious, and a member of the Methodist E. Church. In the year 1829, she was suddenly attacked in the evening with a violent ear-ache as they supposed- Mrs. Rachel Silcott who had at that time was again a widow- and made her home in the family informed me- they applied all domestic remedies- warm poultices, etc., without affording relief- about midnight they sent for a Physician, who pronounced it inflammation of the brain- she expired the next morning, was insensible.

(p. 51) Aunt Elizabeth- the youngest daughter, then took the charge of the family- consisting of Grandfather- George and Ellis Neal- Rachel Silcott, an old lady then, and a bound-girl Sarah, whom Grandmother had raised.

Lewis Walton was a son who occasioned his Parents much grief- he was quite different in disposition from all the family. In childhood he was wayward and ungovernable. As he grew up he became more unstable, and impatient of contradiction- He was

not considered deficient in mental abilities, but never would be regulated by any rule, except his own will, or attend regularly to any business- except in the season for making maple-sugar, it suited his wild and eccentric taste to be in the woods attending to it. At a future time I must tell you about the process of sugar-making- He was fond of Gunning, fishing, and wandering about the Country. His features were not ugly- but the expression was sometimes ferocious, and defiant- he had a sandy complexion.

I heard Mother say that before he was twenty he formed a romantic attachment for Miss Jane Paxton- a very pretty young lady- a cousin of (p. 52) Uncle Jame's wife. She removed to the West with her Parents, he went out there several times to visit her- but she rejected him- after which he became more reckless- He afterwards married a poor girl, a seamstress his family was opposed to his choice, but I think without good cause- she was his superior. After his marriage his Father settled him on a farm, but he had no taste for farming, pity he had not been apprenticed to a Strict Master to learn some Mechanical Trade. After they had several children- his Father got weary of his frequent demands for money- and Lewis wandered off and left his family- who do not know when, where, or how he died- or possibly he is yet living. About the year 1828 while travelling, I accidentally learned that his family was living at Lock-haven, and went to see them- his wife appeared to be an industrious and neat woman- she was keeping a small confectionary and Toy shop- her daughter was learning the Millinery business- her son- tho young, was running a boat on the canal- a bad school, I fear. She said that she thought her husband was living, but could not ascertain where he was. Several years after I heard from Dr. Appleton that poor Uncle Lewis was one of a company engaged in excavating a Tunnel at the Alligany Mountain- on the railroad near Johns-town- that he was quarrelsome and profane. Never heard from him again. Think probably he went to California- as it suited his adventuress disposition.

(p. 53) John Walton was the youngest son- the pet and favorite of the family- He was a fine looking young man with a cheerful agreeable face, tho he had a pug nose, and grey eyes- he was of a king [kind?] obliging disposition, and generous to a fault. When a school boy he was studious, and excelled as an accountant. Uncle John was five years older than I- his Sister- Aunt Elizabeth- three- we were playmates, and I was much attached to them.

Two English gentlemen- brought a large store to

children of accounts of other children dying, but when this book was first published, in 1671-72, attitudes to death were very different. Child mortality was high, attendance at church was governed by law, and belief in heaven and hell as real places rather than imaginary concepts was the norm. Puritans like Janeway believed that every child was born sinful and had to accept God, and live a pious life, in order to earn salvation. In the Preface, Janeway states "How art thou affected, poor Child, in the Reading of this Book? Have you shed ever a tear since you begun reading? Have you been by your self upon you knees; and begging that God would make you like these blessed Children? or are you as you use to be, as careless & foolish and disobedient and wicked as ever?"





Muncy and Grandfather without a sufficient knowledge of their character- placed his son there to acquire of knowledge of the mercantile business- which he did so readily- that at the age of eighteen he advanced capital to set him up in the business, assuming the responsibility, by having- or rather permitting, “Walton and Son” put on the sign- and on the bills, (p. 54) but trusted the management of the business entirely to Uncle John- also hired Joseph Frederic as his Clerk and salesman- purchased a fine horse and Beruch- carrying with him congenial companions he rode about the country and to neighboring towns attending balls, Dining parties, etc and paying the bills.

In the May of 1817 he accompanied Mother, Dr. Grier and I, to Philadelphia, where he went to buy goods. Mother rode with him- he went with us to Brandywine Manor to visit the Grier family- he dressed handsomely and was agreeable, that I felt proud to introduce him as My Uncle- but Alas, there came a time when he signed the letter he wrote me- “Your broken hearted Uncle”- and I wept over his degradation.

After they had been in business several years, Grandfather discovered the Firm had become so involved that he had to mortgage one of his farms to meet the liabilities- and was so much offended that he closed the store, and directed his son to provide for himself. Being thus destitute- he taught School- but soon became so intemperate that he (p. 55) attended to no business, and after several transient reformatations died at his Fathers, about the age of thirty five, leaving a widow and two sons. O what a solemn warning to all young men to beware of extravagant habits- improper associations and the seductions of the intoxicating cup.

Elizabeth Walton was the youngest daughter- was born 1797- She had a remarkably white skin, glossy hair of a rich gold-color- but her features except her forehead, were not handsome- she was square shouldered, and had a short thick neck- she was taller than any other of her sisters except Alice. Her temperament was not so happy as that of her sisters- she was very aspiring, and anxious not only to be genteel [sic], but stylish. She had rather more than ordinary mental abilities stood No. 1 in her class at school- she wrote well- was excessively neat and particular- I never thought her piously inclined- altho

her deportment was usually very correct. She was candid and truthful.

(p. 56) Aunt Elizabeth married Mr. P. Roberts- they went to live on his Fathers farm on Loyalsock Creek- but about the year 1830- they removed to the state of Iowa to reside- they visited us on their way out, when Mr. Bowen was stationed at Hollidaysburg- they then had three sons, and one daughter.

In the year 1843 I met her father in law Mr. George Roberts- on his return from visiting them in Iowa- he informed me they were making themselves a Home in that new Country- and that Aunt like her Mother was educating her own children- he said quite exultingly- “They were the best scholars in all that country.”- We formerly corresponded- but when she went to Iowa, she neglected to write to me before our change of residence- so we lost each others direction which I have often regretted.

Here I have finished the Portraits of the Walton family...

(p. 57-61) [a description of a ‘sugar camp’ and the process of manufacturing ‘home-made’ or maple sugar, located on Grandfather Walton’s farm]

February 10th, 1855- As the Conference is approaching I am obliged to discontinue writing in this book until I have more leisure- there are many things which I wish to write- if my life should be prolonged, and Providence permit.”

the journal of

— Martha Lewis Walton Grier Bowen —

*will continue in the next issue of
The Journal of the Lycoming County Historical Society*



GARY W. PARKS

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Susquehanna Life and *Mountain Home* magazines. Gary is the compiler of a number of genealogical indices published by Genealogical Publishing Company. He is a graduate of Leadership Susquehanna Valley and the recipient of the Union County Historical Society Preservation Award for his preservation efforts of the alleged oldest house in Winfield, PA, the site of the Lee Massacre.



The Life of Phillip Brackley Shaw

by David Bjorkman



ABSTRACT: *Phillip Brackley Shaw (P. B. Shaw) was a Lycoming County, Pennsylvania resident and associate of Thomas Alva Edison who is credited with bringing electric lighting to the City of Williamsport and other Pennsylvania cities through his relationship with the famous inventor. In the early 1880s, Shaw became Edison's state manager for the expansion of the inventor's electrical lighting enterprise. However, Shaw's influence extended well beyond his partnership with Edison. Shaw also played a significant role across Lycoming County and Pennsylvania because of his business expertise, civic and political engagement, generosity, and hospitality, of which his country estate, Poco Farm, played a major role. An examination of Shaw would be incomplete without an understanding of the role Poco Farm played in his life. This article examines Shaw's personal and professional significance across Pennsylvania beyond his association with Edison.*

As a prominent Williamsport, Pennsylvania resident and capitalist, Phillip Brackley Shaw, otherwise known as P. B. Shaw, pursued a wide range of business ventures across the commonwealth during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Born in Belvidere, New Jersey to William (b. 1818) and Caroline Shaw (b. 1823) on March 17, 1848, Shaw was the husband of Rose (b. 1851), whom he married in 1873. Together the couple had four children: Jane (b. 1874), Leon Boyd (b. 1876), Rose (b. 1878), and Louise (b. 1882)^{2,3}. As an entrepreneur, Shaw was enormously "successful in his [corporate] enterprises by his shrewd and judicious management."⁴ During the early 1880s, Shaw formed a business relationship with the renowned inventor, Thomas Alva Edison, but he also pursued many other business interests around the state. Equally important, though, Shaw's influence extended across Lycoming County and the commonwealth through his political and civic engagement, generosity, and hospitality; his home, Poco Farm, played a significant role in his enterprises. He prided himself in Poco Farm, and an examination of Shaw would be incomplete without understanding the property's role in his life.

During the mid-to-late 1800s, Williamsport's population and economic growth could be attributed to the prosperous lumber industry across northcentral Pennsylvania's vast timber region. Between 1840 and 1920, the city's population increased from 1,353 to 36,198, due to the harvesting of this natural resource⁵. As large numbers of trees felled in the surrounding forests floated down the Susquehanna River towards the area's lumber mills, the region produced tens of millions of lumber feet annually. Between 1862 and 1891, the area produced over five billion board feet of timber⁶.

From the 1870s to the early 1900s, considered the nation's Gilded Age, and characterized as an era of rapid economic growth, enormous wealth was created by many new entrepreneurs. Known at that time as the "Lumber Capital of the World," Williamsport claimed more millionaires per capita than any other American city. Peter Herdic, a "lumber baron" and one of the most influential businessmen in Williamsport at the time, was among these entrepreneurs who left a permanent legacy in the city. West of downtown,

Herdic acquired a large tract of land along West Fourth Street, which he then developed for both residential and business purposes. Partnering with architect, Eber Culver, Herdic brought “foresight, intelligence, and ambition” to what was later called Millionaires’ Row, an upscale and fashionable neighborhood intended for the city’s upper-class. Elites, many of whom were also dubbed “lumber barons,” built beautiful mansions along Millionaires’ Row, the construction of which was influenced by Victorian, Italian, and other architectural styles of that era. Drawing their inspiration from larger cities, such as Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, these mansions “reflected the ostentatious living [of the Gilded Age] on a smaller scale.”⁷

According to the Lycoming County Planning Commission, these mansions “showed Italian inspiration, being generally in the villa style, having low-pitched roofs, prominent chimneys, widely projected cornices, balustraded balconies, and intricate wood ornamentation,” but also highlighted French influences evidenced by homes with mansard roofs. Other architecture influences included classical, medieval, and Gothic, which represented, “an individualistic approach to design.”⁸ To support the grandiose lifestyles of residents in this neighborhood, Herdic also “provided both lots and structures on surrounding streets to house the people and businesses necessary for the support of the life style found on Millionaires’ Row,” wrote the Junior League of Williamsport.⁹

It was during these thriving economic times that Shaw moved his young family to Williamsport in the late 1870s after foreseeing the area’s economic opportunities.¹⁰ Specifically, he witnessed the booming lumber industry creating massive wealth in the area. After arriving in the city, Shaw’s entrepreneurial pursuits led to the creation of his western land excursion firm. During the 19th century, the concept of “manifest destiny” grew, which was “the right of our [country] to over spread and to possess the whole of the continent which Providence has given us for the development of the great experiment of liberty...”¹¹ Located in a second-floor office in the Brown Building at the corner of Pine and Willow Streets, Shaw facilitated “emigrant excursionists to all points in the West” for eager settlers looking to journey to this new frontier.^{12 13 14 15} Heightened community demand for his services and the increased, “wants of the traveling public,” though, led him to partner with another Williamsport executive, Frank Banger, in 1878. Together, they formed Shaw & Banger, a firm offering a diverse portfolio, including western land excursions, railway tickets, real estate, and debt collections. By merging their businesses, the men believed they could “supply a want long felt by every businessman in this vicinity.”¹⁶



It was in the early 1880s when Shaw learned of Edison’s electrical inventions and envisioned the “possibilities of ... introducing them into general use.”¹⁸ Given Shaw’s proximity to many cities across central and eastern Pennsylvania, Shaw understood Edison could not singularly expand his electrical interests into these areas without the assistance of local managers and seized the opportunity to work with the inventor. Shaw reportedly reached out to Edison in early 1882; their correspondence highlights the men’s growing relationship. The acceptance of Edison’s electrical lighting, though, was not widely embraced. For many years, Edison worked on his electric lamp, though he was spurned time and again. The gas industry pushed back against this technology, and the public was hesitant of this “weird new light without a flame.”¹⁹ Many in the community believed Edison’s electric “current might jump the wires and burn their houses down [while] others talked of evil spirits and would not go near the wires.”²⁰ Even J. P. Morgan, the acclaimed banker and financier, criticized Edison and his technology, going so far as to call the inventor “an imposter, a fakir, and a charlatan.”²¹

Edison did not weather this criticism well and he “despaired of ever finding a market” for his electric lights, but Shaw persisted and persuaded him to find a small town as the ideal place for a demonstration.²² He encouraged Edison to explore smaller towns in eastern and central Pennsylvania to install his electric delivery system, not in larger cities.²³ Shaw’s perseverance paid off; Edison granted him the legal authority to fund and organize the inventor’s “electrical lighting companies.” Shaw became Edison’s Pennsylvania-state manager for the expansion of the inventor’s electrical business, and he tasked Shaw with identifying suitable sites, securing local funding streams, and collecting on debt payments on behalf of the inventor.^{24 25} Shaw received commissions from Edison for collecting debt payments owed by “local [independent Edison] illuminating companies in Pennsylvania,” including Sunbury, Shamokin, Mount Carmel, Bellefonte, and Hazleton.²⁶

^{27 28}





By the fall of 1882, Edison needed a location for a practical demonstration of his three-wire lighting system. After examining locations across eastern and central Pennsylvania, Shaw recommended Sunbury to Edison as the “logical place for such a demonstration for two reasons” – gas was inexpensive and coal was plentiful.²⁹ Shaw secured funding for the Sunbury venture, and became “directly responsible for financing the first successful electric plants” in cities across central and eastern Pennsylvania, including Williamsport and others.³⁰ By July 1883, the men tested their Sunbury central station, and upon being proved successful a delighted Edison reportedly declared “They said it couldn’t be done.”^{31 32}

Fifteen months later, in October 1884, Williamsport officially incorporated Edison’s electrical lighting into the city’s infrastructure. The first Edison plant in the city was a “60 lamp machine which was operated in the carriage works in the rear of the D. S. Andrus store,” a music retailer.³³ Excitement abounded across the community, and the Sun Gazette reported,

*There is a rush of visitors every evening to the works of the Edison electric light company to see how wonderful light is made ... the great engine, ponderous machinery, and wonderful dynamos are worth going to see.*³⁴

Over the next several decades, Shaw remained close with the inventor even after leaving Edison’s employ, when his contract was not renewed with the Edison Electric Light Company.³⁵ Years later, Shaw attended Edison’s 65th birthday party at the inventor’s home in West Orange, New Jersey, which was also attended by many of Edison’s “old-time associates who for many years had been closely affiliated with him in the development of his great inventions.”^{36 37} Shaw belonged to a group called the “Edison Pioneers,” which formed in 1918 to “bring together the men who were associated with Thomas A. Edison in his earlier work of invention and experimentation ... prior to and inclusive of the year 1885.”^{38 39} Edison even left in Shaw’s care the original ‘Armington and Sims engine and original dynamo’ from the Sunbury station, which reportedly had once been stored in a car barn for years.⁴⁰ About Edison’s invention, Shaw once stated,

*The stupendous development of electricity started in Sunbury and its development commercially, measured from a monetary standpoint is the greatest development in commerce and mechanics in the history of the world [and] the fabrication of this apparatus [dynamo] is the most valuable assemblage of metal ever wrought by man, and therefore a priceless possession.*⁴¹

In 1933, Shaw loaned the dynamos to the Franklin Institute, a Philadelphia science museum, which then later bid on and purchased the equipment for \$2,100 in January 1939.⁴²

Shaw, labeled the “wealthy electric man,” parlayed his financial success into a variety of other corporate interests, and over many decades in business his dealings made him “a fortune of more than ordinary proportions.”⁴³ After formally ending his business relationship with Edison in the late 1890s, over the ensuing years, Shaw became “interested in companies in a score of cities,” and he developed commercial relationships across multiple industries.^{44 45} He should long be remembered, “for the part he played in bringing [the world] the great convenience of electric light and power;” however, Shaw, in his own right, played a key role in the commonwealth’s commercial and political realm, as well as in the social fabric of Williamsport and the greater Lycoming County area.^{46 47}

By the late 1800s, the area’s lumber industry slowly faded for a number of reasons, including the decline in the region’s timber resources and the Flood of 1889, which devastated the city, including the area’s lumber operations. An estimated “two [to three] hundred million feet of timber ... floated away from Williamsport” as a result of this flood.⁴⁸ Lumber executives, such as Henry James, lost an estimated fifteen million feet of timber totaling approximately two hundred and fifty thousand dollars.^{49 50} Consequently, given the impact of the flood on the city, affluent families began to migrate from Millionaires’ Row north to the Vallamont and Grampian Hills neighborhoods.⁵¹

This urban-to-suburban migration mimicked that which was seen in Philadelphia, where, “the fashionable set were moving out from the central city area ... to suburban communities,” such as the Main Line.⁵² By the turn of the 20th century, many Williamsport elites relocated to these neighborhoods, and built magnificent homes away from the city center. As the GRIT newspaper recounts,

*When you pass beyond the business portion of Williamsport your eye will fall upon cottage after cottage, and further along, in the very suburbs, new homes are being built. There is a permanency in such additions to a city that is earnestly to be desired and encouraged, and there is something that induces their sturdy mechanics and tradesmen to erect such pretty and comfortable homes.*⁵³

Shaw, who lived with his family downtown, saw fit to follow this trend, and moved his family from the city to the magnificent Poco Farm property, which he purchased in 1885, and “made into one of the show places of the community.”^{54 55 56} Shaw’s ability to purchase Poco Farm originated from his entrepreneurial success coupled with his successful partnership with Edison. As city residents began to move beyond city limits in what

can be characterized as an early trend toward suburban sprawl, so too did the area witness the development of the Grampian Hills neighborhood.

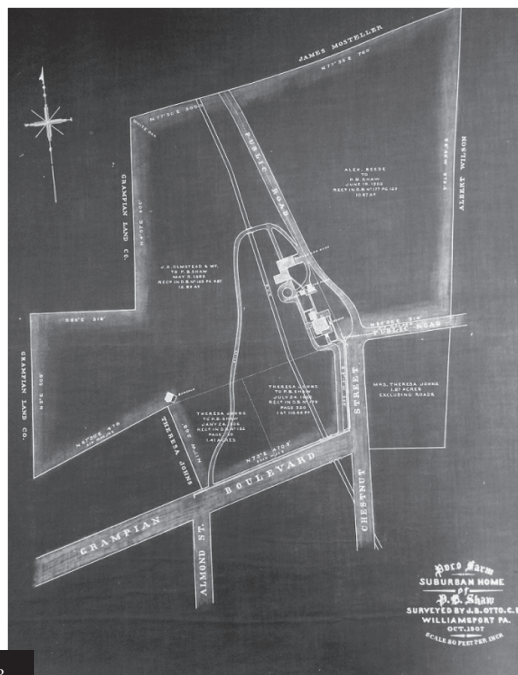
North of the city, Grampian Hills rises several hundred vertical feet over the surrounding area, providing stunning views across the West Branch Valley. Along the base of Grampian Hills runs Grampian Boulevard, or simply “The Boulevard,” then a dirt-covered roadway traversing the city’s northern boundary. At the eastern terminus of Grampian Hills sat Shaw’s property, Poco Farm. Prior to the widespread usage of automobiles, local horse owners ran their animals along this flat thoroughfare “to test their speed.”⁵⁷ Shaw reportedly owned a “fine team of horses,” which included a number of “Canadian ponies,” a “mare, [named] Queen Victoria,” and a Kentucky steed, which he transported back to Williamsport from Pittsburgh by way of horseback.^{58 59 60 61} During the winter months, Thomas Lundy, a local man and caretaker of Poco Farm, maintained Grampian Boulevard, and “horse-drawn sleighs had colorful races” along the roadway.^{62 63}



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together in multiple ventures over the years. Younger daughter Louise married Donald Hepburn (unrelated to William), an electrical engineer, in 1908 and, like Jane, regularly returned home to visit her father.^{72 73 74}

Described as a “white wood-sided, country estate manor,” Poco Farm, or “little farm,” rested in Loyalsock Township, north of the city border, and was described as “one of the showplaces of the community.”⁷⁵ Regarded as a “country-Victorian style” home, Poco Farm reflected the same grandeur as the other mansions along Millionaires’ Row and Grampian Hills. Earlier known as “Blackberry Farm,” the property once produced, marketed, and sold “blackberry cordial,” a liqueur drink.⁷⁶ Over the next 30 years, Shaw increased Poco Farm’s size through the acquisition of neighboring properties. A 1907 blueprint of Poco Farm indicates J. A. Olmstead transferred the farm’s original 13 acres to Shaw on May 5, 1885. In June 1902, a neighboring landowner, Alex Beebe, transferred another 11 acres to Shaw. Two additional land transfers, both from Theresa Johns, in July 1902 and January 1906, added an additional 1.5 acres collectively. By 1915, the last year of Shaw’s ownership, Poco Farm consisted of approximately 26 deeded acres, according to Loyalsock Township records.⁷⁷



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After the mechanization of the automobile, Grampian Boulevard became a popular automotive thoroughfare. As local historian Thad Meckley writes, “Early motorcars were a common sight on Grampian, a favorite spot for Williamsport’s elite to tour up and down the fashionable strand on a Sunday afternoon.”⁶⁵ Shaw, an early automotive enthusiast, purchased the right-of-way along Grampian Boulevard at Poco Farm, which extended the roadway and created, “one of the finest speedways in this section [of town].”⁶⁶

Soon after purchasing Poco Farm, though, Shaw’s wife, Rose, passed away in October 1885 after a “lingering sickness.”^{67 68} Eight years later and in the span of several months, two of Shaw’s teenage children also died; a son, Leon Boyd, age 18, and daughter, Rose, age 16.^{69 70} Despite these losses, his other two daughters, Jane and Louise, grew up on Poco Farm and later married. Jane wed William Hepburn in October 1899, and returned frequently to visit her father at Poco Farm.⁷¹ Shaw and William Hepburn also shared business interests, working

Over his many years of ownership, Shaw invested large sums of money into Poco Farm to ensure it was a community showpiece. Greeting visitors entering the farm, two stone entrance pillars opened to a “fine artificial stone” driveway, which led to the main house.⁷⁹ Shaw laid stone pavers around Poco Farm, which included the long, circular driveway.⁸¹ Rows of colorful flowers surrounded the drive, running from the pillars to the main house. Beginning at Grampian Boulevard, the driveway continued past the main house, circled



batteries were developed to store electrical power for lighting and stationary power.⁸⁸

Shaw employed multiple people to care for the daily upkeep and operations of his property. His caretaker, Thomas Lundy and his wife, Margaret, resided in the keeper's dwelling.^{89 90} Other staff included farm laborers, cooks, and house cleaners. According to the 1900 U.S. Census, two young men, Joseph Harding and Ernest Parker, both farm laborers, resided on the property. Mary Parker, Parker's wife, also lived at the property, and was Shaw's



housekeeper.⁹¹ Newspaper advertisements spanning a period of 20 years repeatedly sought “two girls,” one to work as a cook and the other as a house cleaner, for work at Poco Farm. According to the *Gazette*, Shaw paid his cooks “\$30.00 to \$40.00 per month based upon their abilities.”⁹² He would not take just any prospective applicant, though; his advertisements sought girls who were “experienced,” “well recommended,” and who provided, “references.”^{93 94 95 96}

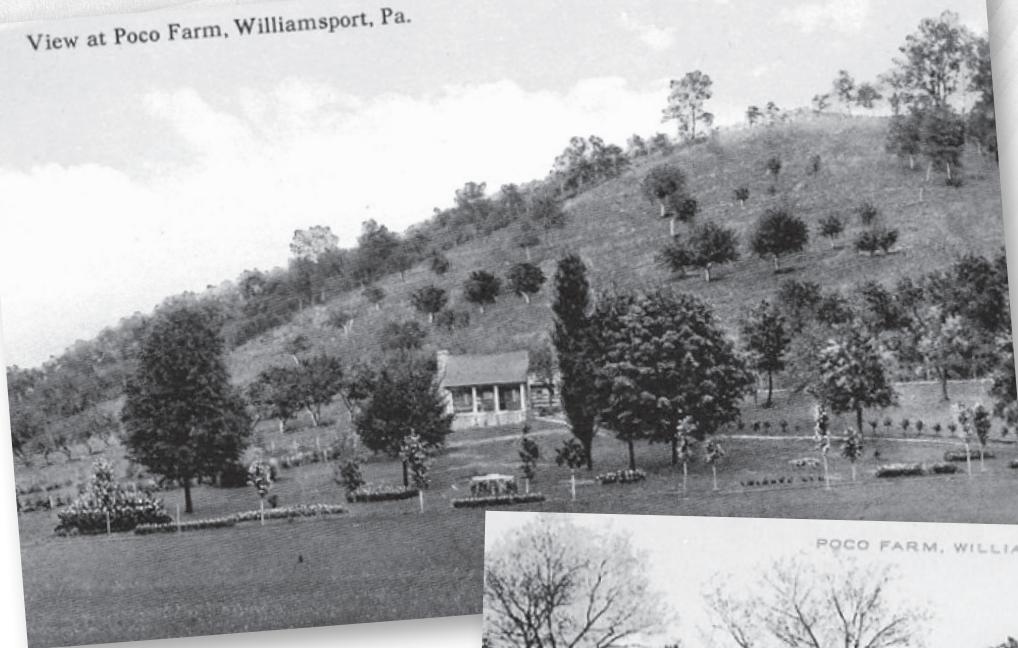
In addition to the main home, the Poco Farm property rests between Grampian Ridge to the west and another ridgeline to the east (Presently, Poco Farm sits at the

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introduction of Edison's electric lighting in the state.¹⁰⁰ Stephen Brown, grandson of S.V. Brown, reminisced to this author about time spent at the bungalow during his childhood.¹⁰¹

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View at Poco Farm, Williamsport, Pa.



In an interview with the Williamsport-based GRIT newspaper, Louise Nutt Brown (wife of S.V. Brown, Stephen Brown's grandmother) stated Edison wired the cabin for electricity in Sunbury, but it had later been relocated to this hillside by Shaw, "as a memento of the late [Edison]." In the same interview, Mrs. Brown stated, "[Edison] was reported to have conducted some of his [electrical] experiments in the cabin in Sunbury."¹⁰³ Edison even visited Williamsport as a guest of Shaw in mid-1883, as it was during this time these men were actively pursuing electrical lighting in Williamsport and surrounding areas.¹⁰⁴ Presumably, Edison visited the area to stay apprised of project activities, although his trip was not entirely business-related, as the inventor visited fishing cabins in Mosquito Valley, a mountainous area several miles south of Williamsport, before departing the city by train.¹⁰⁵

Dividing Poco Farm ran a small, north-to-south stream named McClure's Run. As one of the property's focal points, Shaw meticulously enhanced the stream's appeal by channeling the walls, pouring a concrete bed, and constructing a series of small, terraced waterfalls, all of which exist today. Shaw strung lights "[that] encircled the entire sprawling farm," and reportedly powered these lights by means of hydropower generated by these small waterfalls.¹⁰⁶

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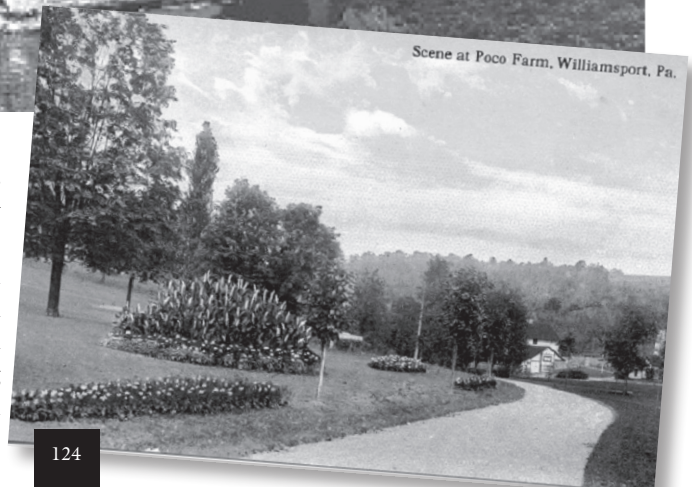


In the same GRIT interview, Mrs. Brown stated Shaw spent approximately \$100,000 on the stream walls, indicative of his great wealth.¹⁰⁸ He also built two, "fine bridge[s] of Pennsylvania white marble," spanning the creek.¹⁰⁹ Reports noted that, "Poco Farm, with a fine stone bridge ... and the run peeking through the farm walled up, looks very attractive."¹¹¹ Shaw later donated the south bridge to Loyalsock Township, purportedly for roadway expansion, while the north bridge presently remains intact.¹¹²



During his 30 years of owning the property, local citizens and community groups fond of the outdoors regularly hiked to Poco Farm to view its beautiful stream, majestic trees, terraced hillsides, and “magnificent lawn divided by the walled run.”¹¹⁴ In addition to the grand stonework, both in the stream and driveway, Shaw graded the grounds to ensure their proper upkeep, including manicuring and landscaping his lawn and garden with small crocus flowers highlighting “every color of the rainbow [making for a] most beautiful sight.”^{115 116 117 118} Russell Deemer, a Williamsport attorney, remarked, “The grounds are splendidly kept and well located [and] set with many fruit trees and decorative evergreens.”¹¹⁹ According to Stephen Watkins (grandson of the late S. V. Brown), Shaw installed a gravity-fed sprinkler system, evidence of which still exists, to water the farm’s lawn and beautiful flowers.¹²⁰

Aside from fruit trees, non-fruit bearing trees grew on the farm, including walnut, hickory, maple, willow, catalpa, pine, and franklana. So valuable were Poco Farm’s franklana trees that famous DuPont Gardens offered \$1,000 for each tree removed and brought to their garden.¹²¹ The local Williamsport School District used Poco Farm as an educational field trip for students. A drawing and nature study course offered by the Williamsport High School included a, “study of birds, nuts, leaves, and fall flowers, including an excursion to Poco Farm.”¹²² Through Shaw’s efforts, Poco Farm became an example of “what nature can do in the way of beautifying the surroundings.”¹²³



A quarry also sat on the western hillside of Poco Farm, and evidence of it still exists. Shaw actively pursued business ventures within this mining industry, and soon after purchasing Poco Farm, he discovered “three veins of bituminous coal” in this quarry.¹²⁵ In addition to coal, during the 1890s, Poco Farm’s quarry supplied rocks to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company for projects along Market Street in Williamsport.¹²⁶ The Philadelphia & Erie Railroad, which later merged into the Pennsylvania Railroad Company “hailed shale from the Poco Farm to fill up the canal bridge gaps,” which was part of the West Branch Division of the Pennsylvania Canal.¹²⁷ In addition to providing stone, the quarry hosted social events, as recollected by Mrs. Brown during her GRIT interview. During the 1890s, Brown attended a dance hosted by Shaw in this quarry where he erected a dance platform, “illuminated with electric lights.”¹²⁸

However, Poco Farm was not simply a beautiful property; Shaw ensured it also played a significant social

role in the community. Over the years, Shaw hosted multiple gatherings at Poco Farm, from dinner parties and dances to sporting contests and other social events. Labeled, “the local society event of the season,” the wedding reception of Shaw’s daughter, Jane, was at Poco Farm, and he later hosted daughter Louise’s wedding reception, too.^{129 130} Other grand celebrations at Poco Farm included a dinner for the betrothed daughter of A. P. Perley, a wealthy local lumber executive, and was intended for the community’s, “prominent ... younger social set.”¹³¹ Other functions hosted by Shaw at Poco Farm included lawn parties and dances, as well as a notable birthday party for his late daughter, Rose.¹³² On another occasion, in September 1897, Shaw entertained the choirboys of Christ Church of Williamsport and their friends at the farm.¹³³ Even Company E of the Third Regiment of the Sons of Veterans Reserves visited the property’s western slopes to practice pitching their tents and drill demonstrations for the community.¹³⁴

An area boy’s club also found favor with Shaw. Charles Crouse, owner of a local gymnasium, sponsored a boy’s club through the Williamsport School District. Shaw approached Crouse around Thanksgiving 1911 and asked him for the “privilege of entertaining [the club at Poco Farm].”¹³⁵ Crouse stated, “I can hardly describe the enthusiasm and pleasure on the part of Mr. Shaw. It was a great day, a great dinner, and as Mr. Shaw expressed himself, it was a great privilege to him.”¹³⁶ *The Williamsport Sun Gazette* provided the following narrative of the day:

*A gymnasium club of fifty boys, ranging in ages 13 to 16 years ... were given a royal Thanksgiving dinner by P. B. Shaw ... On the lawn of Poco Farm they executed several mass drills, and ended with a cheer that echoed through the hills surrounding “Poco.” ‘What’s the matter with Mr. Shaw? He’s all right: Who’s all right? Mr. Shaw?’ Dinner was announced at 12 o’clock and as they filed into the garage building, they were filled with wonder at the decorations and five long tables laden with the things that delight hungry boys. The course was a regular Thanksgiving Dinner [and] Mr. Shaw was the delightful host ... and after the boys were filled they expressed appreciation by school yell.*¹³⁷

Shaw even hosted sporting events at Poco Farm. According to Stephen Watkins, a grandson of S. V. Brown and interviewed by this author, a baseball field once occupied Poco Farm’s western lawn.¹³⁸ In June 1915, Montoursville and Saint Boniface of the Keystone League (Pennsylvania) played a baseball game at Poco Farm.¹³⁹ One month later, Saint Boniface once again faced off on the farm against another league competitor, Jefferson.¹⁴⁰ Shaw was a welcoming host who enjoyed opening his home to the community, whether they were area elites, nature enthusiasts, or simply schoolchildren looking forward to a memorable day.

In addition to playing host, Shaw also demonstrated tremendous generosity throughout his life. For New Year’s Eve 1889, while general manager of the Edison Electric Illuminating Company, Shaw gave a large turkey to each of his 20 employees.¹⁴¹ For many years, Shaw donated produce, including barrels of apples and bushels of pears and grapes, to the local Williamsport hospital, Home for the Friendless, City Mission, and the Girls Training School.^{142 143 144 145} These donations are not surprising, as fruit trees dotted the Poco Farm landscape. During Christmas 1908, Shaw purchased and distributed coal to needy Williamsport families as a gift coordinated through the local Salvation Army.¹⁴⁶ His charity included giving to the James V. Brown Library in 1908, and donations to the local Boys’ Industrial Home, institutions which historically provided lodging and care for orphaned or homeless children.¹⁴⁷ In 1909, the local Boys’ home, which boarded 35 boys, in partnership with the community, organized a “never-to-be-forgotten day,” including a “delicious chicken dinner, ice cream and cake, candy, popcorn [and] music and entertainment.” For his part, Shaw donated pennants for the party.¹⁴⁸

When the Press League of Bucks and Montgomery Counties visited Williamsport for their annual multi-day outing, which included an overnight stay in fashionable Eagles Mere, out-of-town guests were treated to a carriage ride around Williamsport, including through the fashionable Grampian section of town. Shaw donated the use of his carriage to these special visitors.¹⁴⁹ Shaw’s generosity even extended to the national level. In 1906, after the Great San Francisco Earthquake, Shaw donated \$100 to the relief fund intended for those impacted by the disaster.^{150 151}

Although generous and hospitable, Shaw was a man of upper-class status. He often found time to indulge in extravagances, such as vacationing at some of the area’s premiere resort communities, including Eagles Mere, 35 miles northeast of Williamsport in Sullivan County, and Highland Lake in northern Lycoming County. These late 19th and early 20th century resorts hosted large numbers of affluent vacationers. “During August and September, the hotels and cottages [are] filled with city folk,” wrote *The Times* (Philadelphia) newspaper.^{152 153 154} Multiple resorts, such as the Hotel Eagles Mere and Essick House accommodated wealthy vacationers, including Shaw. During his many visits, Shaw reportedly lodged at both the Hotel Eagles Mere and Idlewood Cottage.¹⁵⁵ Health issues also reportedly beleaguered Shaw for years, and his visits to Eagles Mere may have been as much about enjoying luxury as they were health-related. At the time, writes historian Robert Wise, “mountain and lake resorts were not only looked upon as places of leisure, but they were ‘medicinally proven’ to cure a variety of diseases and ailments common to so many at the time,” due to the fresh mountain air and bucolic surroundings.¹⁵⁶





Shaw also played a prominent role in both the area's social and civic circles, which connected him to politicians, business executives, and other elites. Among his positions, Shaw sat on Williamsport's Board of Trade, and received an appointment to the committee on public improvements and legislation.^{157 158} Shaw's membership on the Board of Trade connected him to hundreds of the area's executives and local businesses, which in turn connected him with local politicians.¹⁵⁹ Shaw was a committee member for the Lycoming County Centennial Association, formed in 1894 to celebrate the, "one hundredth anniversary of 'Old Lycoming, The Mother of Counties.'" ¹⁶⁰ He attended many civic, social, and charitable events, even including events in which he was the honoree. In April 1891, Shaw attended the nuptials of Joseph Austrian, a sales and advertising executive, and his bride, Selma Silvermann, of Williamsport, which was labeled, "the grandest wedding that ever took place in Williamsport." In addition to local elites, such as Shaw, many wealthy, out-of-town guests from the Philadelphia and New York areas attended the ceremony.¹⁶¹

Shaw also attended an annual charity ball at Williamsport's Updegraff Hotel to benefit the local hospital. This ball was an annual social event "looked forward to by all of society" and attended by local area elites.¹⁶² Shaw later attended a fundraising Hospital Fair, hailed as "the greatest event of its kind ever held in this city," for the construction of a new children's ward. At the event, Shaw even walked away with a "ramekin," or a small ceramic bowl used for cooking, after playing games of chance during the fair.¹⁶³ In August 1911, the Clinton County Club honored Shaw at a dinner hosted by P. Griffin, a wealthy area lumberman; other attendees included Lock Haven city officials.¹⁶⁴ Later that year, Shaw dined with leading area businessmen at the Williamsport Country Club at a reception for James McCrea, the president of the Pennsylvania railroad system.¹⁶⁵

Shaw also had close ties to politicians from both parties in Lycoming County and across the commonwealth. His connections often intertwined with his business dealings, as he built relationships with politicians at both personal and professional levels. Locally, he was invited to the surprise birthday party of William Elliot (Republican), who served as the Mayor of Williamsport from 1893 – 1896. The party included many of the area's upper-class residents, and some of the mayor's most "intimate friends."¹⁶⁶ Shaw later attended a birthday party for Elliot's successor, Mayor Seth Thomas Foresman (Democrat), at the elite private Ross Club. Club membership included Shaw and other community leaders. The party was "elaborately decorated" and hosted notable local and out-of-town friends, business executives, and other officials, including judges, mayors, and military officers. Shaw even served as an honorary pallbearer at the late Mayor's funeral.^{167 168}

At the state and national levels, Shaw had relationships with many politicians hailing from the Lycoming County area, and his associations extended to both sides of the political aisle. Shaw attended the 1896 Democratic Convention in Chicago as a guest of Pennsylvania State Senator James H. Cochran, whose travel entourage included the commonwealth's Internal Revenue Collector, Grant Herring, as well as newspaper editors from across the state.¹⁶⁹ Cochran's influence extended across Williamsport's business circles, and included the lumber, iron and steel, and banking industries. Shaw's relationship with Cochran developed during the late 1800s, to include corporate positions with the Edison Electric Company.^{170 171} During the 1910 Pennsylvania gubernatorial election campaign, Shaw also dined with prospective Democrat candidate, Cyrus LaRue Munson, as well as former Judge James Gordon and R. W. Allen, a Central Pennsylvania financier, at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel in Philadelphia.¹⁷² Much like Cochran, Shaw's relationship with Munson emerged through both their mutual business and civic ties in Williamsport where the latter was a prominent banker and attorney with the firm Candor & Munson, which represented many business interests in the area, including Shaw's.¹⁷³ Shaw, Cochran, and Munson also were members of the Ross Club and the Williamsport Board of Trade.^{174 175}

Shaw later served on candidate Donald McLean's (Republican) Congressional General Committee during a 1931 Special Election to fill a vacated U. S. House seat.¹⁷⁶ Perhaps no greater evidence exists of Shaw's political connectedness, though, than his presence at a Manufacturer's Club banquet in Philadelphia attended by the U. S. President William McKinley (Republican). This banquet celebrated the commercial history of Philadelphia and the Western Hemisphere, a history in which Shaw certainly played a role.¹⁷⁷

From a business perspective, Shaw partnered with notable commonwealth politicians in many of his dealings, including Republican Congressmen William Griest and Daniel Lafean. Shaw partnered with Pennsylvania Congressmen Griest on a range of business endeavors, including railway and utilities. In 1912, Griest and Shaw headed a group of financiers who entered into a multimillion dollar contract negotiation "for the purchase of the Scranton Gas and Water Company."¹⁷⁸ Shaw and Griest also partnered through other companies, including the Susquehanna Iron Company, Lancaster County Railway and Light Company, and the Pennsylvania Marble and Granite Company. Shaw also joined with former Pennsylvania Republican Congressman Lafean in the Pennsylvania Marble and Granite Company.¹⁷⁹

In addition to his social and political involvement, Shaw developed a deep fondness for the automobile industry beginning in the early 1900s, which stimulated his interest in preserving and maintaining roadways for

both leisure and economic development. For recreation, Shaw often engaged in automobile touring, a new type of leisure activity which emerged with the advent of this technology. Early in the 20th century, wealthy individuals who could afford automobiles enjoyed this fashionable hobby.¹⁸⁰ During his lifetime, Shaw owned multiple automobiles, which he used to both tour and enter races. He purchased a Hudson roadster, a touring car made by the Hudson Motor Car Company, and he once suggested that “there is nothing like a Hudson.” Shaw was a long-time advocate of the White steamer, an automobile manufactured by the White Motor Company.¹⁸¹ He also purchased a “silver gray runabout” during an auto show in March 1906.¹⁸²

Shaw frequently traveled by motor vehicle throughout the mid-Atlantic region and New England, including having taken a two-week vacation he spent driving with family and friends across New York and New Jersey, from the Finger Lakes to the Hudson River southward to coastal New Jersey.¹⁸³ During another excursion, Shaw and his family drove his White steamer to Cape May to take in a series of automobile races. During another automobile tour, Shaw travelled through New England to Maine with his two daughters and their families.¹⁸⁴

Shaw was a member of the Philadelphia-based Quaker City Motor Club. In February 1907, Shaw and other club officials traveled by automobile to Ohio to visit the Cleveland Automobile Show and tire factories in Akron. The purpose of the trip was to develop relationships with other automobile clubs around the nation. Viewed as the first of many future excursions, this trip proved successful and the hosts, the Cleveland Automobile Club, provided the visitors with a tour of the White Motor Company factory, followed by a visit to the Diamond Rubber Company.^{186 187}

In addition to touring, Shaw demonstrated a competitive side as a racing aficionado. He owned a race car, which he entered into the Wilkes-Barre Centennial Jubilee and Mountain Climb. Operated by driver E. C. Johnson, Shaw’s car was a steam-powered, 18 horsepower, two-cylinder automobile nicknamed “White,” after the White steamer; this cost \$2,500.¹⁸⁸ During another hill climb race labeled as “one of the most strenuous events of that kind that Williamsport ... ever saw,” Shaw officiated as a finish line timer.¹⁸⁹

His automotive interests prompted his concern for maintaining and preserving roadways. Shaw recognized that community and economic development depended on well-developed roadways, as they were key to transporting goods and services, as well as for promoting tourism.¹⁹⁰ In fact, Shaw claimed that Williamsport, unlike other cities such as Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, largely escaped financial distress because of “vast municipal improvements,” which included repaving the

city’s roadways. While traveling through New England by automobile, Shaw stated,¹⁹¹

*The efforts now being put forth in Lycoming County [on] behalf of good roads would be returned a hundred fold in cash from tourists who would be attracted by the improved highways.*¹⁹²

During the early 1900s, he advocated so strongly for roadways that he was elected president of the Good Roads Association of Lycoming County, an organization that lobbied the state government to appropriate a fair share of money to the county for roadway projects.¹⁹³ The Good Roads Association “[provided] influence to assist townships to secure the advantages of state aid [for roadway related matters].”¹⁹⁵ At one point, Shaw appeared before the Pennsylvania General Assembly’s State Highway Committee in Harrisburg to discuss roadway infrastructure and funding.¹⁹⁶ Shaw also appeared before the Pennsylvania State Grange, a civic organization intended to improve rural communities; he advocated for state legislative roadway hearings.¹⁹⁷ Led by Shaw, the Association claimed, “Lycoming County will soon be the garden spot of the state for perfect highways.”¹⁹⁸ Shaw once remarked, “This County can be made the best in the state for good roads.”¹⁹⁹ The Association received national acclaim “through the initiative of ... P. B. Shaw [and] for the energy, ability, and accomplishments of the members of this Association.”²⁰⁰ So enthusiastic was the Association in its efforts to seek roadway perfection that it offered prize money “for meritorious work done on dirt highways,” specifically to, “supervisors, road masters, and persons who actually construct roads.”²⁰¹

Shaw’s passion for roadways led him to routinely inspect county thoroughfares, including roads in Loyalsock Township and surrounding municipalities, including Hepburnville, Eldred Township, Balls Mills, and Warrensville. After one such inspection, he commented that he found roadways in Eldred Township, “better than the best drive in Fairmount Park,” Philadelphia’s first park.²⁰² Shaw even “complimented the Eldred Township people on their good works.”²⁰³

Shaw was a strong proponent of the split drag method, a technique that makes, “dirt roads hard and well drained.”²⁰⁴ Shaw used this technique on his lane at Poco Farm, the first road in Lycoming County to employ this method. According to the Williamsport *Sun Gazette*,

*The drag is a split log with the halves set thirty inches apart and the split faces toward each other. This is set at an angle of forty-five degrees and while smothering and making hard the surface of the road pushes the loose earth to the center and this makes perfect drainage.*²⁰⁵

Shaw was a forceful and persuasive advocate of split





drag and industries as far away as Colorado recognized Shaw's roadway expertise, advocating that they "adopt the platform of P. B. Shaw of Williamsport, PA., one of the 'livest wires' for good roads improvement in the United States."^{206 207} At a West Branch Grange Hall meeting involving local farmers and government officials, "P. B. Shaw made a characteristic speech advocating the use of road drag."²⁰⁸ In June 1908, at a Williamsport Automobile Club meeting, Shaw reported that Lycoming County had 175 split drags in use, with about half of the county's roads under current development using split drag. Employing this technique, Eldred Township, the township north of Loyalsock, developed 10 miles of fine roads.²⁰⁹

Shaw worked his Good Roads Association position into a role with the Loyalsock Improvement Association. He served as the roadways' overseer after being nominated by Joseph Rider, who stated, "The Township needs a man who will devote his time to the roads and who is business man enough to know something about them."²¹⁰ Certainly, Shaw fit the position well, being a strong proponent of good roadways and civic improvement, as well as being an experienced businessperson.

While Shaw called Williamsport home, beginning in the late 1890s, he was drawn to other opportunities across eastern Pennsylvania. Shaw was "interested in companies in a score of cities," and he developed relationships across multiple industries.^{211 212} Shaw, dubbed the 'Wealthy Williamsporter,' was involved in many "companies with gigantic undertakings afoot." During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Shaw maintained a very strong connection to southeast Pennsylvania, both for business and pleasure, and many of his business pursuits originated in that region. He frequented multiple Philadelphia hotels during his travels, including the Continental, Lafayette, Park, Walton, St. Charles, and Metropole.^{213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222}

His business pursuits ranged across numerous industries, including railway, iron, gas, marble, granite, and real estate. During his working years, Shaw held leadership and management positions with the following companies, including:

- Backus Manufacturing Company²²³
- Columbia Electric Light, Heat & Power Company²²⁴
- Cygnet Cycle Company²²⁵
- Ephrata and Adamstown Railway Company²²⁶
- Harrisburg Light, Heat, & Power Company²²⁷
- Lancaster and Eastern Street Railway Company²²⁸
- Lancaster County Railway and Light Company²²⁹

- Lancaster Gas, Light, & Fuel Company²³⁰
- National Electric Power Company²³¹
- Northumberland County Railway & Light Company²³²
- Pennsylvania Marble and Granite Company²³³
- Sunbury and Northumberland Electric Railway Company²³⁴
- Sunbury Gas Company²³⁵
- Susquehanna Iron & Steel Company²³⁶
- Susquehanna Railway Light & Power Company²³⁷
- United Water, Gas, & Electric Company²³⁸
- Williamsport Steam Company²³⁹

Over time, Shaw developed a strong real-estate interest, and he purchased the Commercial Hotel in DuBois, Pennsylvania, for \$51,000 at a sheriff's sale in 1889.²⁴⁰ However, the southeastern Pennsylvania real estate market was his main interest. In 1901, Shaw purchased three tracts of land in London Grove and Upper Oxford (Chester County, Pennsylvania) totaling 170 acres.²⁴¹ Several years later, Shaw joined with local Philadelphia real estate partner, George Wilson, to purchase the "Pennsylvania Building" for \$1,300,000 which was, "a handsome granite office skyscraper" with an estimated annual rental income of \$200,000 dollars a year.²⁴² According to the Williamsport *Sun-Gazette*, "It is regarded as a splendid investment and Mr. Shaw is fortunate indeed."²⁴³ Later in life, after purchasing another sizable tract of land in Chester County, Pennsylvania, Shaw sought "to make the acquaintance of a physician or surgeon desirous of establishing a private sanitarium or health retreat for convalescents." Shaw writes, "I have a superb estate situated in the rugged, northern section of Chester County, admirably suited to such a purpose."²⁴⁴ It is important to note that Shaw suffered significant health problems later in life and these challenges were the impetus for purchasing the land.

Notably, Shaw was the president of the Pennsylvania Marble and Granite Company, becoming the owner in 1906 of many valuable quarries after a legal dispute arose between Shaw and two other men with business interests in this company. After settling the dispute through the courts, Shaw received ownership of this company.²⁴⁵ This company produced "some of the finest marble and stone ... used for building purposes that could be found anywhere in the United States."²⁴⁶ Employing 300 men, the company owned "valuable marble quarries [and] does an extensive business erecting public buildings..."²⁴⁷ According to Editor Frank Hoyt of the Stone Publishing Company,

*Many of the most striking buildings in [Williamsport] have been constructed of marble or granite from the Pennsylvania Marble and Granite Company ... of which company P. B. Shaw ... is president. It is interesting to note in this connection that of the several local buildings in which material from [Shaw's] quarries was used, the chapel and mortuary at the entrance to Wildwood Cemetery were the first buildings for which marble was furnished by the Pennsylvania Company.*²⁴⁸

Shaw later acquired a quarry in Avondale, Pennsylvania, which supplied the marble for the "construction of the new Pine Street Methodist Church," as well as the "James V. Brown Library and the Church of the Covenant," all located in Williamsport.²⁴⁹

For all his business success, though, Shaw also experienced legal troubles, ironic since an associate of his once wrote, "I know you are the last man in the world who would be willing to make a 'dishonest penny.'"²⁵⁰ Given Shaw's involvement in a substantial number of companies, Shaw even maintained a \$50,000 life insurance policy as business collateral. In fact, according to *The Times*,

*It has become a recognized business principle for a man to become insured in proportion to his income or wealth ... as a judicious business investment. In some cases it is not only regarded as a death benefit, but also as an asset ... as often it becomes a surety for bonds or debt.*²⁵¹

For many years, Shaw was embroiled in lawsuits and other legal issues. Some of these lawsuits involved the ownership and disputed control of stocks and bonds in companies in which Shaw had a financial interest, including the Lancaster Gas, Light, & Fuel Company, Pennsylvania Marble and Granite Company, and the United Water, Gas, & Electric Company.²⁵² Other legal matters pertained to contractual disputes, such as an alleged failure to pay a promissory note to the National Bank of Kennett Square, and allegations of failure to pay his mortgage debt on Poco Farm.^{253 254}

His legal challenges also impacted his relationship with his political/business partners. Despite his long-time business relationship with Congressman William Griest, the federal delegate highlighted his growing concern with Shaw's mounting debt problems in multiple correspondences to both Shaw and creditors. Writing H. H. Powell of the Importers' and Traders' National Bank concerning a shared debt, Griest believed Shaw intentionally, "is willing to have the [debt] burden now transferred to me, and that, unwittingly, you are helping to put [Shaw's] burden on my shoulders unnecessarily."²⁵⁵ In letters to officials representing Fulton National Bank, Lancaster Trust Company, and the Columbia National Bank, Griest discussed the men's shared liability, and he

blamed Shaw for the unpaid debt interest, "caused by his failure to pay his share of the [debt]." Griest later pressured Shaw to make payments on his debt because "it will be impossible for me to face these [creditors] and make any statement to them unless this interest is paid as was promised repeatedly."²⁵⁶ By early 1915, though, financial pressure continued to mount. An ailing Griest wrote to Shaw, voicing his anxiety about the Susquehanna Iron Company, stating that their "old fashioned and antiquated plant ... will be almost impossible to sell," and he called their Bondholder's Committee a "great menace" to the longevity of the company.²⁵⁷

Shaw's debt likely affected his personal finances, specifically his ability to retain his ownership of Poco Farm, his beloved country estate. Russell Deemer, a Williamsport attorney, penned a letter to attorney John Malone of Lancaster, who represented Christiana National Bank in a civil case against Shaw, writing,

*There are a great many liens of record against [Poco Farm]. The first lien being a mortgage of \$12,500 followed by numerous judgments with interest and costs. Mr. Shaw, I understand, states that he has invested in the property about \$75,000.*²⁵⁸

By November 1915, Shaw had seven civil judgments levied against his property, the earliest dating back to 1906, with judgments totaling \$29,678.82. His creditors included the following:²⁵⁹

- Williamsport National Bank in the amount of \$1,070.90
- Lancaster Trust Company in the amount of \$5,241.50
- Farmers National Bank in the amount of \$1,511.25
- Niagara Falls Trust Company in the amount of \$6,160.00
- Walter Maguire in the amount of \$2,784.63
- Willard Meyers in the amount of \$5,898.04
- National Bank of Kennett Square in the amount of \$7,012.50

These liens against his property are in addition to a mortgage judgment of \$14,297.97 levied by the Savings Institution. Poco Farm was large and expansive with multiple buildings and meticulous landscaping, all of which needed continual maintenance, and Shaw struggled to do so. By 1915, Shaw was 68 years old, nearing retirement, mired in debt, beset with civil lawsuits, and struggling to maintain his property. Poco Farm fell into disrepair, perhaps due to the financial obligation and time needed for property maintenance, his many other debt obligations, and advancing age and



health concerns. Charles Engle of the Lancaster Real Estate Company wrote a prospective buyer concerning Poco Farm stating,

*The dwelling is of frame, and portions of it show decay. All of the buildings need paint badly... In my opinion at least \$800 would have to be spent for repairs next Spring [and] only a wealthy individual is likely to purchase it on account of the necessarily high expense of maintenance ... I am of the opinion that it would be dangerous for a non-resident to put the required amount in its purchase.*²⁶⁰

Finally, in late 1915, Shaw's ownership of Poco Farm ended when the Savings Institution repossessed his property.²⁶¹ Soon thereafter in December 1915, Stephen V. Brown bid on and assumed ownership of Poco Farm from the Savings Institution, according to Loyalsock Township deed records.²⁶²

After the bank foreclosed on Poco Farm, Shaw left Williamsport and began, "traveling extensively for his health."²⁶³ However, by 1920, Shaw relocated to Cape May, and later to Atlantic City, New Jersey, according to both the 1920 and 1930 U.S. Census, respectively. Interestingly, the 1920 U.S. Census lists Shaw's occupation as a house painter, and he still identified as a widower after his first wife, Rose, passed away in 1885, 35 years earlier. He did later remarry, though, in the early 1920s to Sarah Decker, who was 20 years his junior. By 1930, Shaw had retired and lived with his wife, Sarah, in Atlantic City.^{264 265 266} Several years later, Shaw and his wife moved to Philadelphia, where he lived at the Hotel Drake (1512 Spruce Street) until his death. On January 31, 1937, at the age of 89, Shaw passed away after a month-long battle with gall bladder cancer. He was interred at West Laurel Hill Cemetery (Lower Merion,

Montgomery County, Pennsylvania) on February 2, 1937.²⁶⁷ Upon his death, Shaw left behind his second wife, Sarah; two daughters, Catherine and Louise; four grandchildren, William Brackley, Marie Louise, Jane, and Louise; and three great grandchildren.^{268 269}

Shaw played a key role in the expansion of Edison's electrical lighting industry, but he also engaged in a variety of other business pursuits during his lifetime. While his corporate influence extended across Pennsylvania, his political and community impact is equally noteworthy, and he figured prominently in the social and political fabric of the state. He impacted many people throughout his lifetime, from business executives, colleagues, and politicians, to family and friends, schoolchildren, and even the less fortunate. His home, Poco Farm, also played a prominent role in the community. Evidence of the farm's splendor still exists, from the channeled stream and block walls, marble bridges, tiered hillsides, majestic trees, and even Shaw's main house. His importance in Pennsylvania history during the late 19th and early 20th centuries due to his commercial, political, and social influence will be long remembered.



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David Bjorkman is the Lead Faculty Member for the Pennsylvania College of Technology's Bachelor of Science in Emergency Management Technology program. He served as the Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) for Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center in Baltimore, Maryland. Prior to his position as a hospital EMC, Mr. Bjorkman was a public health preparedness consultant in central Pennsylvania. Prior to his emergency management career, Mr. Bjorkman spent more than eight years as a police officer. Mr. Bjorkman holds a master's degree in Public Health Preparedness from Penn State University and a B.S. in Criminal Justice from Shippensburg University. David currently resides with his wife and three young children in Loyalsock Township on the old Poco Farm property. Living on this old farmstead property was David's motivation for researching P. B. Shaw and his place in Lycoming County history.

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Weldon Wyckoff

Highlights of a Baseball Career

by Marc G. Pompeo



Weldon Wyckoff, a native of Lycoming County, played professional baseball at the dawn of the 20th Century. A pitcher, he played for the Philadelphia Athletics and the Boston Red Sox. He is one of two ball players born in Lycoming County to play in the World Series.

Born in Williamsport...

According to the *Baseball Encyclopedia* John Weldon Wyckoff was born in Williamsport on February 19, 1892. Raised in Williamsport, Weldon was one of two sons born to Roland and Laura Beck Wyckoff. His father worked as a taxi liveryman.

Plays ball at Bucknell University...

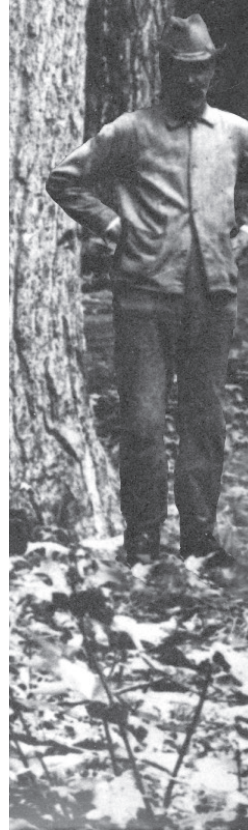
Weldon's pursuit of a Major League career as a pitcher began when he attended Bucknell University. In the *Baseball Almanac* Wyckoff is listed as playing two years for Bucknell (1911-1912). Like some collegiate ball players of the time, he decided to forego the remainder of his education to enter the ranks of professional baseball. Two other notable Bucknell alumni, Christy Mathewson and Harry "Moose" McCormick, also left college early to play pro ball. Mathewson, a Hall of Famer, needs no introduction. McCormick was one of the first players to be used almost exclusively as a pinch-hitter. For several years McCormick and Mathewson were teammates on the New York Giants.


Signs with the Philadelphia Athletics...

In a *Society for American Baseball Research* (SABR) article about Weldon Wyckoff, author Christopher Williams states that Wyckoff "signed contracts to play with Wilmington,

Delaware, in the Tri-State League in 1912-1913, and may have also played with them in the 1911 season. But here, too, there are no firm records." Williams continues: "In any case, Wyckoff was with the Athletics from the beginning of the 1913 season. The club received his contract in the mail on February 1." Williams also mentions Wyckoff's play in a spring training game: "On April 1, the young Bucknell recruit (the *Washington Post* called him a 'student') pitched masterfully against the crosstown National League rival Phillies in one of the last tuneups [sic] of spring training. The *Boston Globe* described him as the star of the game for shutting out the Phillies on six hits and two walks, and allowing only one batter to reach third base." Williams concludes with a comment that seems to predict Wyckoff's success, or perhaps the lack of, in the big leagues: "It is too bad that one of Wyckoff's finest performances in a major league uniform should occur in an exhibition game." To his credit, young Weldon Wyckoff must have made an impression in spring training because he was added to the roster of the 1913 Philadelphia Athletics.

For the next three years Shibe Park, located in North Philadelphia, was Wyckoff's home away from home. Named for owner Benjamin Shibe, the stadium was located in North Philadelphia about 3½ miles from Independence Hall. The website ballparksofbaseball.com describes the home plate entrance at the corner of Lehigh and 21st





Streets as “one of the...grandest facades at any ballpark ever built.” In his book *Lost Ballparks*, baseball historian Lawrence Ritter refers to Shibe Park “as the crown jewel of ball parks.”

Played during early days of the Modern Era... includes a “modern” World Series...

Wyckoff, at the age of 22, began his professional career during the first full decade of the “Modern Era” of Major League Baseball. The new era began in 1901 and featured two leagues – the National League, organized in 1876, and the new American League that was organized on January 28, 1901. Each league had eight teams. During the first two decades of the Modern Era, the Chicago Cubs, New York Giants and Pittsburgh Pirates dominated the National League and the Boston Red Sox, Chicago White Sox and Philadelphia Athletics dominated the American League. On September 18, 1903, without official sanction, the presidents of the Boston Pilgrims of the American League and the Pittsburgh Pirates of the National League agreed to play for a post-season championship between their two pennant-winning teams. On October 1, a crowd of 16,242 watched the Pirates defeat the Pilgrims 7-3 in the first World Series game of the Modern Era played at Huntington Street Park in Boston. Boston defeated Pittsburgh, 5 games to 3, to win the first World Series that was initially called the “Championship of the United States.” Two months later, on December 3, the Wright Brothers made their historic flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

Connie Mack...

When Wyckoff signed his contract with the Philadelphia A's, the manager of the team was the legendary Connie Mack. In 1901 he was hired to manage the Philadelphia Athletics, one of the teams in the newly established American League. Mack was also part owner of the team. He managed the A's for fifty years and holds the Major League record for most wins (3,731), losses (3,948), and games managed (7,755). Mack's teams won nine American League pennants and five World Series titles. Those are just a few of his accolades. Known as “The Tall Tactician”, he was the only manager to wear a suit in the dugout during a game. Mack favored players with a college background because he believed them to be smarter, self-motivated and more disciplined. In fact, many of his players were products of collegiate baseball. His players at the time were known as the “Mackmen”. Mack retired after the 1950 season at the age of 87. He was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1937.

Mack and the famous “white elephant” comment...

When the Baltimore Orioles of the New American League fizzled in 1902 and became the New York Highlanders, their manager, John McGraw jumped ship and became the manager of the New York Giants in the National League. McGraw disliked the new league

and its president, Ban Johnson. When a reporter asked manager McGraw about the Philadelphia A's, McGraw replied: “White elephants! Mr. B. F. Shibe has a white elephant on his hands.” To keep the situation light, Mack had white elephant patches sewn on the A's blue warm-up sweaters. In Frederick Lieb's book *Mack: Grand Old Man of Baseball*, published in 1945, Mack recalled McGraw's comment with a bit of wry humor: “Inasmuch these were the days when the Republican Party was winning elections with the elephant, I was thankful that John McGraw's quick wit had not called us donkeys.”

1913... rookie season...

In his first year with A's, the 6' 1" 175 lb. right hander was eased slowly into the rotation. Primarily a curveball pitcher, Wyckoff also threw a blazing fastball as discussed by SABR author Christopher Williams: “One newspaper account from 1915 spring training described him as faster than all but Walter Johnson and Dutch Leonard and with a better curveball than either.” On April 19 Wyckoff made his first Major League appearance in a game against the Boston Red Sox, when he relieved starting pitcher Eddie Plank for one inning before giving way to Herb Pennock. Wyckoff made his Major League debut as a starting pitcher on May 18. He got into trouble early and in the second inning he was relieved by Albert “Chief” Bender, a full-blooded Ojibwe Indian from Crow Wing, Minnesota. Bender pitched the remainder of the game to seal the victory. Wyckoff made two more starts but each one was a disaster. As a result he was sent to the bullpen. In a game on September 24, he lost sight of home plate and walked twelve batters! In his SABR article author Christopher Williams discusses a report about a late season game that again had Wyckoff going up against Hall of Famer Walter Johnson and the Washington Senators: “On September 29, Walter Johnson made swift work of the Athletics' second string lineup for his 36th victory, but missed in the report was that Wyckoff nearly matched him pitch for pitch, walking just one batter, allowing eight hits and allowing the game's sole run in the seventh on a force-out grounder.”

Weldon Wyckoff started seven games in his inaugural season and finished with 2 wins and 4 losses, and a disappointing ERA of 5.13. The A's, however, won the American League pennant with a record of 96 wins and 57 losses. The highest paid players on the team were 3rd baseman Frank “Home Run” Baker (\$8000) and 2nd baseman Eddie Collins (\$7000). Baker almost won the coveted Triple Crown. He led the league in home runs with 12 and RBI's with 126. His batting average of .336 was second to Ty Cobb's phenomenal average of .390!

1913 World Series...

The A's opponents in the 1913 World Series were the New York Giants managed by Hall of Famer John McGraw. The two teams met before, first in 1905 and again in 1911. In 1905 the Giants won the Series 4 games to 1. Six years later the A's beat the Giants in the 1911 World Series, 4 games

to 2. In this 1913 match-up, the A's easily defeated the Giants 4 games to 1 thanks to some outstanding pitching and forty-six hits by the A's powerful offense. Wyckoff, the rookie with minimal experience, did not appear in any of the games. Still, from his vantage point on the bench or maybe in the bullpen, he was able to watch a World Series that featured two of the most successful teams in the early part of the 20th century. What a memorable and exciting experience for the young pitcher from Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Hall of Fame players in the Series included Frank "Home Run" Baker, Charles "Chief" Bender, Eddie Collins, Herb Pennock and Eddie Plank of the A's, and Christy Mathewson and Rube Marquard of the Giants. This was the third World Series championship for the A's in three of the last four years. The winner's share for each player was \$3,246.36 and for the losers, \$2,164.22.

Post-Series trip to Williamsport...

Wyckoff and two teammates go hunting...

Wyckoff apparently became friends with veteran pitchers Chief Bender and Jack Barry, as noted in *Chief Bender's Burden* by Tom Swift: "Soon after the World Series Bender packed up and took a vacation—a hunting trip (what else?)—with Jack Barry at Weldon Wyckoff's home in Williamsport, Pennsylvania."

Presidents celebrate the National Pastime...

During the newly branded Modern Era of baseball, two presidents celebrated the National Pastime on three occasions. The Baseball Chronology notes that on April 10, 1913 "President Woodrow Wilson, who receives a gold pass from Ban Johnson, throws out the first ball at Washington's home opener. In their first official game as Yankees, New York loses to Walter Johnson 2-1." An August 2 event listed in the Chronology reads: "It's Walter Johnson Day in Washington. President Wilson is on hand to help mark the Big Train's 6th anniversary in a Nationals Uniform. Johnson is presented with a silver cup filled with 10 dollar bills, and returns the favor with a 3-2 win over Detroit." William Howard Taft, Wilson's predecessor, has his own place in baseball history. On May 10, 1910 he became the first president to throw out the first ball on opening day in Washington prior to a game between the Senators and the White Sox.

1914... Wyckoff's best year...

Based on his overall pitching statistics 1914 was the best year of Weldon Wyckoff's career. Oddly enough, he began the season in the bullpen. When Jack Coombs the ace of the A's pitching staff and former 31 game-winner contracted typhoid fever, Wyckoff was promoted to the starting rotation. In his second start on April 28, he outdueled Hall of Famer Walter Johnson in a 2-1 win against the Washington Senators. Wyckoff was in rare form striking out five, walking just three and surrendering only six hits. He remained in the rotation for the next several weeks. Control continued to be an issue for Wyckoff. On some days his pitching was steady and productive, but there were other days when he was completely wild and

unable to find the strike zone. In the middle of the season, he made five consecutive starts but failed to win a game. On October 1st, Wyckoff won a 3-1 decision against the Senators in his final start of the season. Wyckoff finished the season with a record of 11 wins and 7 losses, a respectable ERA of 3.52, and winning percentage of .611. The 1914 season was the only time in his career that he won more games than he lost. The A's also had a successful year. They won the American League pennant for the second consecutive year, and their fourth in five years, with a record of 99 wins and 53 losses. The Boston Braves, their opponents for the 1914 World Series, finished the year with a record of 95 wins and 59 losses to capture the National League pennant.

Braves sweep the A's in the World Series... Wyckoff appears in game 1...

The A's, with three World Series titles in the last five years, were the obvious favorite to win the 1914 World Series. Their team had seven pitchers with 10 wins or more and four of the seven had 15 wins or more. The Braves, by comparison, had two 26 game winners and a third pitcher with 16 wins. Six of the A's starters had averages above .300 and three had averages ranging from .272 to .287. The team batting average was .272. Only one of the Braves starters had an average above .300. The team batting average was .251. The A's had Connie Mack at the helm and the Braves had George Stallings, a man with a very brief playing career and short stints as a manager with three previous teams. In the *Baseball Timeline*, baseball author Daniel Okrent and journalist Steve Wulf collaborated to describe George Stallings as "a challenger of orthodoxy who was the first manager to play platoon baseball, using lefty/righty tandems in both left and right fields. He also was a monomaniac of staggering proportions."

In game 1 the Braves tagged Chief Bender, a veteran of four World Series, for six runs into the 6th inning when he is relieved by Weldon Wyckoff, after one out. With one man on first Wyckoff walked catcher Hank Gowdy. After a fielder's choice loads the bases, he gets out of the jam when a double play ends the inning. In the top of the 7th inning, Wyckoff gives up a single to the leadoff batter and a bunt to the second batter.

In the top of the 8th inning, leadoff batter Possum Whitted pops out to third for the first out. Wyckoff gave up singles to the next two batters, Schmidt and Gowdy, with Schmidt going to third on Gowdy's hit. With runners on first and third, the Braves attempt a double steal when Rabbit Marranville strikes out. Schmidt steals home, but it turns into a double play when Gowdy is thrown out by the A's catcher when he tries to go to third after stealing second base. In the top of the ninth, Wyckoff gets the Braves to hit into three consecutive ground outs. In the bottom of the 9th inning, Braves pitcher Dick Rudolph surrendered a double to "Home Run" Baker before retiring the side. Rudolph pitched a fabulous game. He gave up only five hits and struck out eight.



Game 2 featured an intense pitching duel between the A's Eddie Plank and Bill James, the Braves' other 26 game-winner. The game was scoreless until the ninth inning when the Braves tagged Plank for a run in the top of the 9th inning. The A's failed to score in the bottom of the inning to give a 1-0 victory to the Braves.

Game 3 was a twelve inning thriller between Lefty Tyler of the Braves and the A's Bullet Joe Bush. The game was tied at 1-1 in the 9th inning, sending the game into extra innings. Both teams scored two runs in the 10th to tie the score at four. Bill James relieved Lefty Tyler in the 11th inning, while Bullet Joe Bush pitched into the 12th inning when the Braves scored another run to win the game 5-4.

Pennock and Eddie Plank for the Athletics, and Johnny Evers and Rabbit Marranville for the Braves. The hitting star of the game was Braves catcher Hank Gowdy with an amazing .545 average. Babe Ruth will break Gowdy's mark with an average of .625 in the 1928 World Series. The winner's share for each player was \$2,812.28 and \$2,031.65 for the losers.

Braves make history...

Mack makes drastic changes...

For the first time in the brief history of the World Series, a team made a clean sweep of their opponents. The "Miracle Braves" win the World Series when they defeat the



In Game 4 the Braves 2nd baseman Johnny Evers hits a two out single in the bottom of the 5th to drive in two runs to break a 1-1 tie. The score remains 3-1 until the final out of the game. Dick Rudolph wins his second game of the World Series. With this win the Braves become the first team to defeat the opposition in four straight games in a World Series.

Hall of Fame players in the Series included Frank "Home Run" Baker, Charles "Chief" Bender, Eddie Collins, Herb

Philadelphia A's, the defending World Series champions, in four games. This is the only World Series ever won by the Boston Braves. In 1953 the Braves franchise will move to Milwaukee and then to Atlanta in 1966.

After being upset by the Braves in the World Series, Mack decides to go with a youth movement and places several of his star players on waivers. Jack Coombs goes to Brooklyn, and Eddie Plank and Chief Bender switch to the upstart Federal League. Home Run Baker tries

to renegotiate his contract but Mack refused. He plays semi-pro ball for a year and then signs with the New York Yankees. Eddie Collins, the finest 2nd baseman in baseball, rejects an offer from Mack and is sold to the Chicago White Sox for \$50,000. He signs a 5-year contract with the White Sox worth \$75,000 and receives a signing bonus of \$15,000.

Chief Bender retreats to a famous hunting club...

After the A's stunning upset in the World Series, Bender retreated to the Texas Blockhouse in Waterville, PA, to hunt. While there he also learned that his career with the Philadelphia Athletics was over, as noted in *Chief Bender's Burden*, by Tom Swift: "I guess Mr. Mack was quite disgusted with all of us...I know I was quite disgusted myself," he said long after the fact. "I decided to go hunting and forget about it. I was in the Texas Blockhouse in Williamsport, oiling my gun one morning, when Jerry Donovan dropped a paper in my lap. 'Hey look at this, Chief,' he said. Across the top of the of the sports page was the banner line: 'Mack Asks Waivers on Bender and Plank.' I felt as if someone had hit me with a sledge hammer."

1915...worst season of his career... A's lose 109 games...

The 1915 season was a difficult one for Weldon Wyckoff. His control problems continued throughout the season. Losing more than he won in the early part of the season, including a game to his rival Walter Johnson, he finally managed to collect three consecutive wins in mid-June. As the workhorse of an inexperienced pitching staff and with little rest between starts, Wyckoff accumulated numerous losses, including two consecutive games by scores of 8-0 and 11-0. His best outing occurred on July 31st when he pitched the only shutout of his career in a 1-0 win against the Cleveland Naps. Wyckoff finished the season with 10 wins and 22 losses (worst in the league). He started 34 games, completed 20 and pitched 276 innings. He had 157 strikeouts, led the league in earned runs with 108, walks with 165 and wild pitches with 14. The A's finished in last place with a record of 43 wins and 109 losses. Fifteen years will pass before the A's win another American League pennant in 1929.

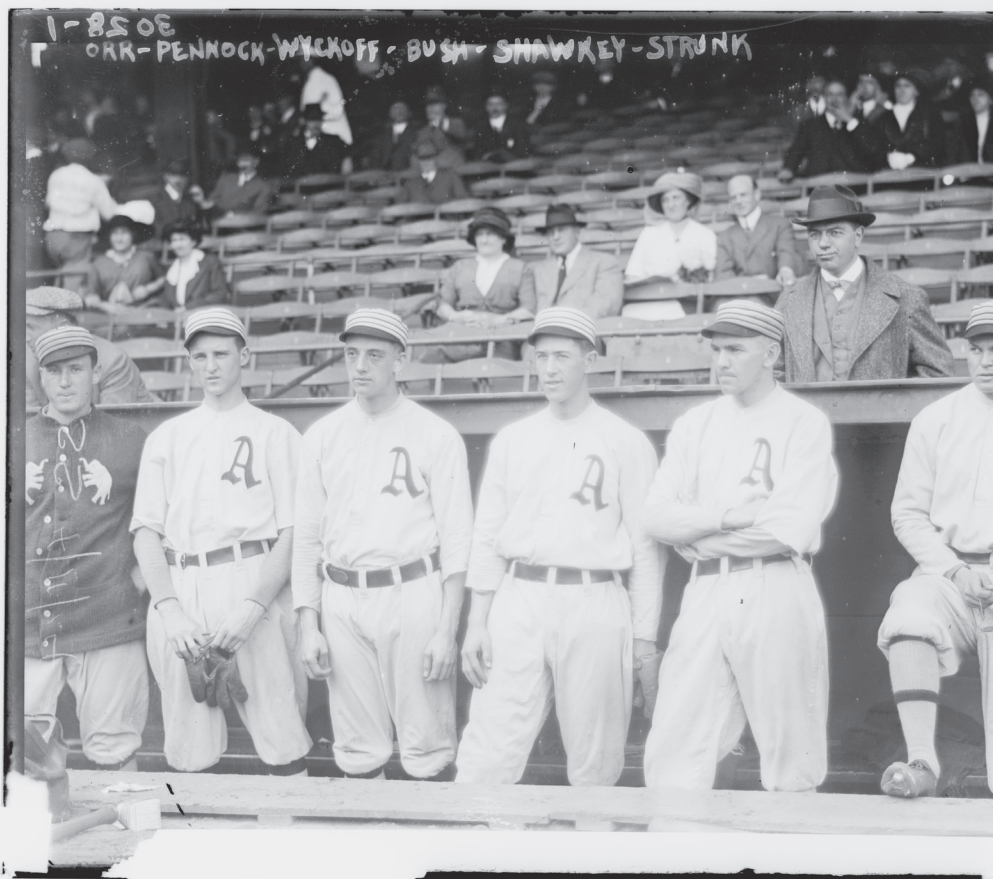
1916... Wyckoff plays for two teams...

After such a poor performance in 1915, Wyckoff probably realized that his career with the A's was about to end. When he was sold to the Red Sox at the end of June, Wyckoff's record was 0 wins and 1 loss. He started just two games and completed one. In 21 innings he gave up 16 hits and


13 runs. He struck out 4, walked 20, hit a batter and was charged with 2 wild pitches.

Joins the Red Sox... relieves Babe Ruth...

The Red Sox were already set with pitching when Wyckoff arrived in Boston. The rotation included Carl Mays, Babe Ruth, Ernie Shore, Rube Foster and Dutch Leonard. For the remainder of the season Wyckoff was used exclusively as a relief pitcher. He made his first appearance for the Red Sox on July 15 in the second game of a double header with the St. Louis Browns. With the Red Sox in the lead 17-2, Wyckoff relieves Ruth in the 7th inning. He gives up two runs, strikes out two and walks two in the 17-4 win. He was also credited with a save. His next appearance was on July 29, in the first game of a double-header with the Detroit Tigers. Ruth started the game but after giving up three runs in just a third of an inning he left the game. Wyckoff came in to relieve the Babe but he was ineffective. In three innings Wyckoff gave up eight hits and six runs.



The Tigers scored ten runs on twelve hits to win the game 10-8. On August 26 Wyckoff relieved Carl Mays in the 9th inning in a game against the Tigers. He only gave up one hit, but it was a triple. A sacrifice fly brought a run in to put the Tigers ahead. The Red Sox failed to score in the bottom of the inning giving the Tigers the win, 2-1. In eight relief appearances Wyckoff pitched 22.2 innings, gave up 19 hits, 12 earned runs, struck out 18 and walked 18. The Red



Sox won the American League Pennant with a record of 91 wins and 63 losses. The top salaries belonged to two pitchers, Rube Foster (\$6000) and Babe Ruth (\$5000). Ruth led the team in victories with 24 wins against 13 losses. Carl Mays had 22 wins and just 9 losses.

1916 World Series... Red Sox defeat Brooklyn 4 games to 1...

In game 1 the Red Sox beat Hall of Famer Rube Marquard, 5-4. The Sox turn four double plays. In a fourteen inning game Babe Ruth outpitches Sherry Smith to win game 2 by a close score of 2-1. Ruth, in the 2nd inning, starts a winning streak of 29 scoreless innings in World Series play. The streak ends when he gives up a run in the 8th inning of game 4 of the 1918 World Series. The Robins defeat the Red Sox 4-3 in game 3. Carl Mays takes the loss for the Sox. In game 4 the Red Sox bang out ten hits to beat Brooklyn. Larry Gardner hits an inside-the-park home run, for his second homer of the Series. Ernie Shore tosses a 3-hitter to win game 5 and the World Series for the Red Sox. Shore is the pitching star of the Series. He wins two games and allows just three runs in 17.2 innings. Hall of Famers in the Series for the Red Sox included Harry Hooper, Herb Pennock and Babe Ruth, and Rube Marquard, Casey Stengel and Zach Wheat for the Robins. Outfielder Duffy Lewis batted .353 for the Red Sox, followed by fellow outfielder Harry Hooper with a .333 average. Casey Stengel, an outfielder for the Robins, batted .364 for the highest average in the Series. This was the second consecutive World Series title for Boston and their third in six years. The winner's share for each player was \$3,910.16 and \$2,834.82 for the loser's share.

1917...early injury ends Wyckoff's season...

Weldon Wyckoff's first and only appearance of the season was on May 14 in a game against Cleveland when he relieved starter Dutch Leonard in the 3rd inning. Cleveland was ahead with 4-0. Wyckoff gave up four hits, three runs, four walks and hit one batter in five innings. Boston managed to score six runs, but the Indians prevailed and won the game, 7-6. Unfortunately, his season with Boston came to an end on May 16 when he sustains a foot injury. He eventually recovered and spent the remainder of the season at Buffalo in the International League. At Buffalo he won 6 games and lost 11. Once again, Wyckoff was unable to find the strike zone. In 140 innings he walked 73 batters. The Red Sox finished second in the American League with a record of 90 wins and 42 losses.

1918... final year with Red Sox...

In Weldon Wyckoff's final year with the Red Sox, he only made one appearance. On May 8 Joe Bush is relieved by Carl Mays when the score in a game with the Washington Senators is tied 4 to 4. In two innings Mays gives up ten hits and nine runs. When Wyckoff enters the game to relieve Mays the score is 13-4. In two inning Wyckoff gives up four hits, strikes out two, walks four and surrenders one run in the 14-4 loss. On May 23, Wyckoff was released to a minor

league team in Minneapolis. On appeal he was reinstated to the active list of the Red Sox by Commissioner Landis. Wyckoff asked the Red Sox to be declared a free agent but they ignored his request. On June 19th he was purchased by the Jersey City Skeeters, a team in the International League. He only appeared in one game for the Skeeters. After that he never played in the Major Leagues again.

Overworked in 1915 affected his career...

In his SABR article author Christopher Williams mentions the "abuse" Wyckoff's arm took in during the 1915 season with the A's. That was the year he won 10 games and lost a league-leading 22 games. He started 34 games, completed 20, and in 43 games he pitched 276 innings. He led the league in several of the wrong departments -- earned runs, walks, and wild pitches. At the end of the season he was probably weary and very exhausted. I suspect his arm was sore and tired due to throwing too many fastballs and curveballs. In fact, he may have caused irreparable damage to his pitching arm. After the 1915 season he appeared in only 17 games. In his six years as a Major Leaguer Weldon Wyckoff won 23 games and lost 43. He struck out 229 and his ERA was 3.55 in 573.2 innings pitched. He issued 357 walks, hit 14, and threw 33 wild pitches.

Returns to Williamsport...

With his baseball career over, Wyckoff returned to Williamsport and managed the taxi service he inherited from his father. He married and he and his wife had two children. After a divorce from his first wife, Wyckoff moved to Battle Creek, Michigan. He worked odd jobs and in 1924 married a woman from Pennsylvania. In his spare time he played baseball on company teams. In 1926, he and his second wife moved to Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin. In his SABR article author Christopher Williams mentions that the move was made so that Wyckoff "might join the Wisconsin outlaw baseball league." That same year Wyckoff's team, the Sheboygan Chairmakers won the league championship due in part I suspect, to Wyckoff's baseball experience. In fact, as Williams notes, "his play during that season earned 'Wykie' (as he continued to go by his old nickname) induction into the Sheboygan County Hall of Fame." While living in Sheboygan, "Wykie" and his wife had three children. He worked for a while as a bartender at a hotel and later as a machinist. Wyckoff also worked as a bartender at two different taverns. On May 8, 1961, John Weldon "Wykie" Wyckoff died of a heart attack while working in his yard. He was 69 years old.

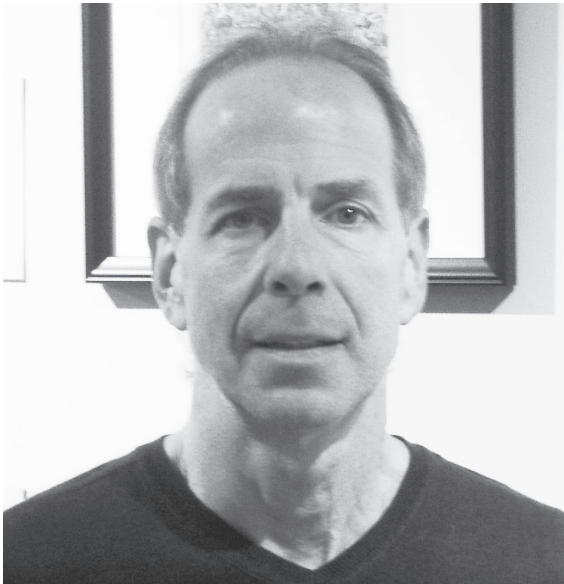
Of the eleven former Major League Baseball players born in Lycoming County, only two were fortunate enough to play in the World Series. The most recent and last Major Leaguer born in Lycoming County to play in the World Series was Ed Ott, a 1969 graduate of Muncy Area High School. Ott, a catcher, played for the Pittsburgh Pirates from 1974-1980. He played in three games when the Pirates defeated the Baltimore Orioles in the 1979 World Series. Ott finished his Major League career in 1981 with the California Angels.

Weldon Wyckoff, the lesser-known and more obscure player of the two, was from Williamsport. He played for the Philadelphia Athletics from 1913-1915, and for part of the 1916 season until he was sold to the Boston Red Sox. He played for the Red Sox for the remainder of the 1916 season, and from 1917-1918. During his six year career Wyckoff was on the 40-man roster of four teams that played in the World Series: the Athletics in 1913 and 1914, and for the Red Sox in 1916. Research did not reveal whether or not Wyckoff was member of the 1918 Red Sox World Series roster. The only appearance he made was in the first game of the 1914 World Series. The only appearance he made was in the first game of the 1914 World Series.

Legacy of Weldon Wyckoff...

While Weldon Wyckoff had only marginal success as a pitcher, the experience of playing professional baseball at the dawn of the Modern Era is what defines his career. The

early part of the Modern Era was one of the most exciting periods in the history of Major League Baseball. During that period he played for the Philadelphia Athletics, one of the dominant teams in baseball at the time, managed by the great Connie Mack. His teammates included many Hall of Famers. Wyckoff also played against numerous Hall of Famers. As a starter, he went up against Hall of Famer Walter Johnson several times in his career. Johnson is considered by many to be the greatest right-handed pitcher in baseball history. Wyckoff also played for the Red Sox. They too were one of the dominant teams in the American League. Several of his teammates became Hall of Famers. While he was with the Red Sox, he relieved the great Babe Ruth on a few occasions. To date, John Weldon Wyckoff and Ed Ott are the only two professional baseball players born in Lycoming County to play in the Major League Baseball World Series.



MARC G. POMPEO...

Marc G. Pompeo has served on the Board of Governors of the Lycoming County Historical Society since 2009. He is currently a Member at Large of the Executive Committee and serves on the Collections, Education, Facilities and Fundraising Committees. Marc graduated from Moravian College in 1980 with a B.A. in History. He also attended Lycoming College for courses in history and education.

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Country, Heritage, Music, a Veteran's Legacy

by Carol Sones Shetler

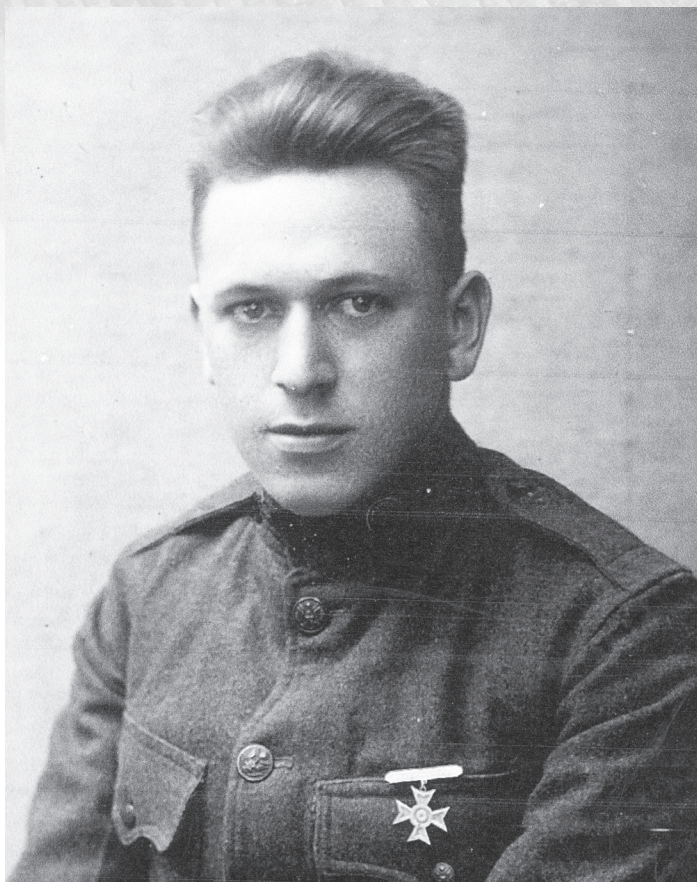


Photo Provided by Raymond Venema

It's oft been said, "Music hath charms to soothe the savage beast," and World War I Marine Andrew Venema did just that, sharing his vocal talents in both peacetime and war.

Born in Chicago during September 1896, Andrew was the son of Dutch immigrants John and Ida Venema. The newborn's middle name was McKinley, perhaps honoring William McKinley, the governor of nearby Ohio who was elected the 25th President of the United States.

According to grandson Rob Mueller of South Williamsport, Andrew's first job was stuffing olives at the H. J. Heinz Company. With his vocal talents, he began singing with the Chicago Opera Company.

Early in 1918, young Venema secured a job with U.S. Gypsum, a company founded in 1901 which produced building materials which became a world-wide entity operating in 140 countries.

Almost immediately, Andrew was granted a leave of absence to go off to war. He joined the Marine Corps, assigned to Company G. His outfit shipped to France in the waning days of the war and thankfully failed to see combat. However, the corps remained a part of the occupying force. As a tenor with a Marine Corps quartet,

the foursome toured Europe entertaining troops, many not returning to the States until spring.

As correspondence sent home from Paris posted April 20, 1919 reveals Andrew himself had thoughts of spring back in the good old U. S. of A. The brief note said, "Just a few lines to let you know I received your post and was mighty glad to hear from you. We are having real summer weather now, but I wish I was back in Grand Rapids either fishing or cutting grass again."

It was late summer, August 20, 1919, when Andrew's group returned and was discharged from Parris Island, South Carolina. Three months later, in November, the veteran wed Hazel C. Licence. The former Marine continued with U. S. Gypsum in Grand Rapids before being assigned to Buffalo, New York. There in 1933, Andrew was listed as chief clerk and salesman. In 1938 when the company relocated him to oversee the Williamsport office, the family included children Donald, Shirley and Raymond. It was son Raymond who said, "Dad sang in churches all around Williamsport. He saved enough money to buy

mom a baby grand piano, so she could accompany him.” Several local news items published in the *Williamsport Gazette and Bulletin* confirmed the son’s account. One listing from 1945 announced Good Friday services planned by the Williamsport Ministerium would be hosted at the Pine Street United Methodist Church. Members of a quartet were identified as Andrew Venema, Williamsport jeweler Ralph B. Grammer, Fred Clyde Harer a Newberry native, and Montgomery furniture maker William E. Parsons. Interestingly, all four had served in WWI.

In May 1948 at “The Lycoming,” Venema was the honored guest at a dinner hosted by the local chapter of the Business Association. The event lauded Venema for marking thirty years with U. S. Gypsum. Company representatives attending included D. W. Raines of Chicago, and from Harrisburg, W. J. Devine. Mrs. Venema was present when a watch was awarded to her husband.

The Venemas were active members of the community. The family resided on Shiffler Avenue where in 1948, Hazel was voted secretary of the Loyalsock Township Fire Company. Her qualifications included working as a stenographer at the time of her marriage.

In 1956, the couple moved to the city residing on Blair Street where Hazel was a member of the ‘Dutch Newcomers Club,’ an organization numbering more than 100 women welcoming new arrivals to the area. At ‘The Tara,’ club members socialized over lunch and card playing.

After purchasing a home in Holland, Michigan in 1964, Hazel joined the ‘Dutch Newcomers Club’ there. Reportedly in the spring of 1970, she volunteered at the Civic Center during a Dutch Costume Exchange.

Alas, ‘the war to end all wars’ proved not to hold. In 1941, World War II would involve the family’s next generation. Don joined the Marines while Raymond chose the Air Force. Daughter Shirley’s husband died in the conflict leaving her to live out her life as a widow with a son who had not seen his father.

On May 18, 1977, the veteran’s voice fell silent when he died and was interred in Woodlawn Cemetery at Grand Rapids, Michigan. His widow returned to Williamsport until her death in January 1990 at age 93.

On June 14, 2018 (Flag Day), Raymond Venema, now 93, along with extended family members, attended a program at the Taber Museum. On display, a list and photos of several Lycoming County WWI musicians included Marine Andrew Venema. For posterity, a family photo was taken marking the occasion of the WWI Centennial.



CAROL SONES SHETLER...

has been a genealogy/local history researcher since 1980. Beginning in Feb 2016, her articles on local WWI veterans have appeared in *The Muncy Luminary*, *West Branch Life* magazine, the *Sullivan Review* and the *Standard-Journal* at Milton. The writer presents programs on The Great War to area organizations. She is a member of the Lycoming County Historical Society Board of Governors.



Luba and Frank's Experience

As displaced persons, immigrants and American citizens after WWII

by Helen Ochej



Arbeitskarte
polnischer Arbeitskräfte
aus dem Generalgouvernement Polen
und
Bescheinigung
über eingezahlte Lohnersparnisse



Luba's work permit

In 1940, my mother, Luba received a ticket to work in Germany. She and her friend accepted the work offer because they could not find a job in Poland, and believed that eventually they would be forced to go to Germany anyway. Her sister received a work order, but she did not want to go. Her father sold half a pig to get her an exemption and allow Luba to go instead.

Luba was taken from home to Lublin by wagon and from Lublin to Erbach by train. She sat in a passenger compartment and the train was not crowded. After arrival in Germany, my mother became part of a group of 300 people presented to some German men who were waiting for workers. A man chose my mother and took her to a restaurant. He had brought sandwiches for both of them and bought coffee in the restaurant. After dinner, the German farmer took Luba to his farm and she worked there for six months.

She shared a bed with the owner's daughter who had urinary incontinence. Mom complained to an administrator from the employment office, who ordered her to be provided with her own bed. The owner of the farm assigned her to her son's bedroom. However, the wounded son returned from the war and she was returned to sleep with the incontinent woman. Luba had various farm tasks like milking cows, cleaning milk containers, making bread, house cleaning and working in the kitchen. When the administrator returned, mom complained again about having to sleep with the woman who wet the bed. She was assigned to a work at another, larger farm outside of Erbach managed by the Prillip family. The farm was owned by a noble.

From 1941-1945 Luba worked in Rosbach for the Prillip family. It was a large farm; almost 30 slave workers worked there. Even though she worked hard and had no freedom,

she liked working there. She worked in the kitchen and as a housekeeper. She was very proud of her bread baking, because she was in charge of baking the bread daily. The house staff served four meals a day to about 40 people. I asked Luba whether anyone was mistreated there. She thought that field workers were sometimes beaten if they refused to work. Luba's sister, Hela by that time had been forced to work in Germany and was working on a nearby farm. She eventually joined my mother (mom requested Hela to be moved to the same farm, and the administrator arranged it). Sometimes, she was sent to town where she could go shopping for shoes and clothing. She hired a tailor to make her clothing. She paid for the items with money that the farmer paid her for her work. She also received coupons with which she could make purchases. Luba also had a Christmas vacation. During one vacation, she travelled home to Poland to visit her family. The farmer had given her a note to show in case she ran into wartime trouble. She used the note to save the life of her father and brother when German soldiers came to her parent's house. They wanted to shoot the men of the family. Luba showed her note. One of the soldiers was from the same village as my mother's employer. He spoke to my mother in German and asked her how she liked his village. After their discussion, he decided not to shoot my mother's father and brother. Her uncle who had just been visiting their home, but was in a hurry to get back to his own family, was shot dead by other soldiers outside.

After the war, in 1945, Luba was transferred to Erbach where she met Frank. She and Frank started seeing each other regularly, even after she was transferred again to Darmstadt for a few months where she lived in a building near a railroad station and slept on the floor. They were there for 6 months. A mutual friend told Luba that Frank was interested in marrying her. He told her that Frank's father was an alcoholic, but that Frank was not. Frank wanted to settle down and have a family. Luba agreed to marry Frank after they were both transferred to Wetzlar from Schwarzenborn. Both of them wanted to start a new life after the war.

Frank was forced to work in Germany after Poland was invaded by Germany. He worked as a slave laborer for a brewery in Erbach. He came to Luba's farm twice to visit his friend. The friend introduced them. Later, Frank found Luba in Darmstadt. From Darmstadt Luba moved to Schwarzenborn, where she stayed from August through winter.

Frank came to Luba at the camp in Schwarzenborn. He proposed to her, promising a stable family life. They were married in September. Marion (He later married Hela, Luba's sister), a radio announcer and singer in the camp arranged a musical group and the policemen from their camp lined up in front of the church in uniform to make a procession. Before the wedding ceremony, Frank had taken his bicycle to purchase wine for the reception. He tried to hold on to a truck to speed his way home, but the driver of the truck swerved and dislodged Frank and the bike. It flew into the air with Frank. Frank landed on the road with a sore butt, and the bike with the wine was destroyed. Luba's friends, Sophie and her sister, made pumpkin compote and pancakes for the reception. The musicians played and everyone danced! Luba's sister and friend also got married around the same time, in the same wedding dress and in the same church.

In 1946, Luba and Frank were transferred to Schwarzenborn for 4 months. During that time, they both searched for their families in Poland. Because they were displaced by the war, they needed to decide whether to return to Poland, to stay in Germany or travel to the USA. Luba wanted to return to her family, but Frank was afraid that communism would take over Poland. Frank's employer at the brewery offered to train him as a braumeister and invited him to stay in Germany. Hela and her husband returned to Poland because her husband was an alcoholic. Luba and Frank decided to wait for transit to the USA. Luba's first daughter, Helen, was born in a German hospital near Wildflecken.

Below is a photo of Frank's classroom in Germany, and a group of female slave laborers working on a German farm and a photo of Luba, Frank and Helen.





From 1946 – 1950 they lived in a displaced person's camp in Wildflecken for 4 years with about 24,000 people. Richard Z and Sophie also lived there, and so did Sophie's sister and Frank's best friend, John T. At first, Luba, Frank and Helen lived in a kitchen with 5 other people. Eventually, Luba and Helen got a private room. Frank worked in Mannheim (and he was able to save \$175.00). He spoke fluent German and was also able to take classes in draftsmanship and land surveying. As more people arrived, Luba was asked to share her room. Instead, she opted to move into a room with her friend, Wanda. Luba did not like the soy bread and kidney bean soup that was served in the camp, so she ate very little. She got hepatitis, gastritis and anemia. From 1948-1950 she was in a German hospital. In 1950, Frank and his friends were notified about available space on a ship called the General Haan. They started building two wooden shipping boxes so they could bring their possessions to the U.S. with them. They prepared clothing, bedding, a mattress that could be stuffed with straw, cooking utensils, dishes and photographs.

In a book¹ about his Polish family in Germany during the war and life as immigrants in Chicago, John Guzowski describes his family's wooden trunk:

"When my parents, my sister and I, finally left the refugee camp in Germany after the war, we were allowed to bring very little, only what would fit into a steamer trunk. The problem was that we couldn't afford to buy one. Not many of the families living in the camps could. You can imagine why that was, so my father did what other people did. He and a friend got together and built a trunk."

Someplace, somehow, they found a hammer and a saw and nails and some metal stripping, and they set to work. Getting the wood wasn't a problem. They got the wood from the walls of the barracks they were living in. It was one of the old German concentration camps barracks that had been converted to living space for the refugees, the Displaced Persons, and this place didn't have finished walls of plaster, or anything like that. If you wanted a board, you could just pull it off of the wall, and that's what my father did.

I don't think he felt guilty about busting up those walls. He had spent enough time staring at them, so that he probably felt he could do anything he wanted to them, and it would be okay. I think if a man spends enough time staring at a thing, finally it becomes his by a kind of default. I don't know if that's what my dad thought. He didn't say a lot about building that wooden trunk, and he probably didn't give it much thought.

The trunk my father and his friend built out of those old boards wasn't big. It was maybe four feet wide and three feet tall and three feet deep. The walls of the trunk were about 3/4 of an inch thick. But wood is always heavy, so that even though it wasn't that big, that trunk generally needed two people to lift it. My father, of course, could lift

it by himself. He was a small man, a little more than five feet tall, but he had survived four years in Buchenwald as a slave laborer. That work taught him to do just about any work a man could ask him to do. My father could dig for beets in frozen mud and drag fallen trees without bread or hope.

My parents couldn't get much into the trunk, but they put in what they thought they would need in America and what they didn't want to leave in Germany: some letters from Poland, four pillows made of goose feathers, a black skillet, some photographs of their time in Germany, a wooden cross, some clothing, of course, and wool sweaters that my mother knitted for us in case it was cold in America. Somewhere, I've got a picture of me wearing one of those sweaters. It looks pretty good. My mother knitted it before her eyes went bad, and she was able to put little reindeer and stars all over that sweater.

When we finally got to America, my parents didn't trash that wooden trunk or break it up, even though there were times when breaking it up and using the wood for a fire would have been a good idea, kept us warm. Instead, they kept it handy for every move they made in the next forty years. They carried it with them when we had to go to the migrant farmers' camp in upstate New York where we worked off the cost of our passage to America. And my parents carried it to Chicago too when they heard from their friend Wenglaz that Chicago was a good place for DPs, for refugees. And they carried that trunk to all the rooming houses and apartment buildings and houses that we lived in in Chicago. I remember in those early days in Chicago that there were times when the only things we owned were the things my mother and father brought with us in that trunk, and the only furniture we had was that trunk. Sometimes it was a table, and sometimes it was a bench, and sometimes it was even a bed for my sister and me.

Here is a photograph of Luba and Frank's wooden trunk that I took in their attic on Green Street in Williamsport before it was donated to the Thomas T. Taber Museum in 2016. Their second trunk fell apart after the move to Williamsport. The second photo is a group photograph of immigrants in the displaced person's camp waiting with their luggage for transportation.



In 1950, Luba, Frank and Helen came through Ellis Island in NYC to the United States by ship (the General Haan) with their two wooden trunks. It was a long journey. Luba and Helen were in the lower compartment of the ship where almost everyone had seasickness. Frank and the other men worked on top of the ship in the fresh air, so they did not get seasickness.

Their sponsor lived in Fairmont, West Virginia. The sponsor was an old woman who spoke Polish, and she signed as a sponsor for almost 100 people. Most got diverted to other places, and she never saw them. The old woman was poor, and hoped that my father was a doctor because he was wearing white clothing. Oatmeal and water was the only food in the old woman's house, so my father spent some of his Red Cross money and money he had saved from Germany to buy food for everyone. We slept on a dirty mattress on the floor in the old woman's house. Conditions were worse than in Germany during and after the war! Helen got sick with German measles. We ended up feeding the old woman and fixing up her house to make conditions better. Luba and Frank spent one week in W. Virginia, and when my father could not find employment there, they took the train to Shamokin, Pa. where their friend from the camps, John T, was living. Shamokin had a large Polish community and Luba immediately got a job in a hotel, cleaning, preparing and serving food. Helen was cared for by John's wife. Frank worked as a laborer on farms and in the coal mines when help was needed. When the coal mines stopped hiring, he decided to look for work in surrounding cities.

In 1951, he found a job in Newberry, Pa. in a tannery. Eventually, John T also found work at the tannery, and another friend, Richard Z (who moved to Williamsport from Kansas), also got a job at the tannery. Frank, Luba and their friends from Shamokin all decided to move to Williamsport. Frank worked at the tannery for five years. During that time, he took night classes at Williamsport Community College in English and drafting. They all (John and Richard's family and the Ochej family) lived in a garage that was owned by an Italian man. It was heated by a space heater. They purchased a used refrigerator. Eventually, they found the Polish community and the Holy Rosary Polish church in Newberry.

In 1952, Frank and Luba celebrated the birth of their second daughter, Marysia and purchased a house on Green St. in Williamsport, Pa. The house was in terrible condition, and not in the Polish community, but it was the only affordable house they could find. It cost \$3000.00, but the bank refused to give Luba and Frank a mortgage. Luckily, their realtor found an Italian man who loaned the money to them; they were able to pay him back in three years. Friends from two other families moved in with them. Richard's family lived upstairs, John's family lived in a room upstairs, and Luba and Frank's family lived downstairs. After they purchased the house, they realized that the water pipes were completely calcified

and only drips of water came out of the faucet. Richard and Frank decided to clean them out with a brush. After that, the pipes developed holes in them and when the water was turned on, water sprinkled everywhere. The men decided to replace all of the pipes with copper. After that, the ceiling in the living room fell down. Luba's youngest daughter, Marysia, who was born a few months before, was in a buggy in the living room. She had started crying, and my mother moved her to the kitchen just before the ceiling came crashing down. Everyone pitched in to renovate the house by changing all the walls with plasterboard, plastering ceilings and putting in hardwood floors. Evenings after work were spent on renovation of the house.

Below is the house Luba and Frank bought and improved. The picture shows the house after the improvements. Additionally below, the photo with the immigrant children, shows the wooden porch and steps that were torn down.

The other two families eventually purchased their own houses and moved. Frank took evening classes in drafting and English. Luba learned the English language from a volunteer named Mrs. Bower who came to her



home during the day. A nutritionist from the gas company showed my mother how to use her used gas stove and taught her some new American recipes. When Mrs. Bower visited Luba, she taught her the English words for various foods as she cooked and baked in her kitchen. Mrs. Bower taught English and citizenship classes some evenings that both Frank and Luba attended. Many immigrants from various countries attended these English classes, and they got to know each other. Mrs. Bower had a big Christmas party for her students every Christmas. Everyone exchanged gifts. Karl, son of the couple upstairs, and Helen played with children on the street and learned some English before starting first grade at the local public school. I remember learning to read by following the letters with a bouncing ball while watching a film. I also loved finger painting; the teacher let me take paints and paper home! All three families attended mass every Sunday at the Annunciation Catholic church. Some children also attended the Catholic school. Below are photos of Karl and Helen from the Sun Gazette newspaper about new students from Poland in the first grade and a photo of Mrs. Bower with some of her students at the Christmas party.

In 1956, Frank and Luba became American citizens! Frank took a job as a draftsman with Babcock & Wilcox Co. He worked there for three years until the company moved to Pittsburgh. Luba and Frank did not want to move to Pittsburgh because of the pollution there. By this time, Frank liked the American idea of a homestead, so even though he loved his job with the company, he did not want

to move again. Frank took unemployment insurance for one year, before he was hired by the Lycoming County Courthouse in the Assessment Bureau. He worked there until he retired.

Every evening and weekend was spent working on their own house, gardening, canning and making wine. Eventually, they purchased a house across the street from ours, and then another house, fixed it up and sold it. With the money they made from the sale of these old houses, they were able to pay for college tuition for their daughters. Luba and Frank worked hard, but also entertained many neighbors and friends in their home. Since Frank worked at the County courthouse, he got to know many people in Williamsport.

In 1957, Luba decided to join the workforce. Marysia and I always had chocolate chip cookies waiting for us after school, but Luba had always wanted to become a seamstress, so we eventually learned to make our own toasted cheese sandwiches while doing our homework. In Williamsport, she took a sewing job with the Weldon Sewing Factory sewing pajamas, and worked there for 3.5 years. After that, she was hired by Arrow shirts where she produced shirt collars for 14.5 years (700 collars / 8 hours). She had 2 weeks of vacation there. She spent her vacation washing windows and polishing floors at home. Evenings, she helped my father renovate the houses on Green St. On weekends, Luba loved to garden, cook, bake and can.

When Arrow left Williamsport, she joined the Lesko factory, sewing London Fog coat collars for 7 years. She was laid off because the company lost their contract. At age 61, she took unemployment payments and retired at age 62. She had three garden plots. One at home, one across the street, and one near the Susquehanna river. She cleared and planted the land herself. Luba was particularly proud of her peach trees, which she planted from the peach seeds of her favorite peach varieties.

From 1950 to 1960, Luba had no contact with her family because they ended up in Ukraine after the war. Since Ukraine was behind the Iron Curtain, it was difficult to send or receive mail. My father kept in touch with his family in Poland by mail and by telephone. My mother's sister, Hela lived in Poland because she and her husband decided to stay in Poland and not join the family in Ukraine. Hela was my mother's only source of news about her family





Frank with his coworkers at the court house on the day of his retirement

in Ukraine. My mother often cried because she was so homesick for her family and so worried about them. In the 1960s, Luba and Frank visited Poland and the families that lived there. Her mother and sister were able to travel from Ukraine to Poland to see Luba while she was visiting in Poland. Luba was not able to visit Ukraine until 1995, after the Iron Curtain came down. Helen and Marysia took Luba to Ukraine, and we all met Luba's family in their homes. Frank was relieved because when he married Luba, he promised her that she would be able to visit her family. His promise was finally fulfilled in 1996!

Both Helen and Marysia finished college. Helen graduated from Lycoming College with a Biology degree and Marysia graduated from RIT with a business degree. Both married and had children. Marysia lived in New York State, Detroit, Alaska and California. Helen lived in Philadelphia, Germany, New York State and Maryland. In the 1970s the Green St. neighborhood began to change. More African-American families started to move in, and young Caucasian families moved out. The older Caucasian widows and my parents stayed. For my parents, this was their stable homestead in America. It was built with their own blood, sweat, tears and hands. By the time Frank died in 2002, the newspapers were reporting gang and drug dealing activity around our neighborhood. In the years after Frank's death, a young man was shot in the alley behind our house. My mother said that she still felt safer in our neighborhood than she did in Poland during the war. The row house next door caught fire and the firemen came into Luba's house with their hoses. When Luba was 90, someone broke into her house. Luckily, she could still scream loudly and succeeded in scaring the intruder away. After that, she didn't feel safe in her home and she started having falls and fractures. She could no longer live alone. She loved Williamsport and did not want to move to Maryland or California to be with a daughter. For this reason, she moved to the Presbyterian Home in Williamsport and eventually to the Elmcroft Senior Living Home. She was always full of stories about

her family, her childhood and her years in Germany. Our house and other houses on Green St. were purchased by the Williamsport Medical Center and razed to make room for medical offices. Most of Green Street became a large grassy field. This seems to be the fate of Luba's homes. Her home in Poland was destroyed and made into a farm commune by the Russian communist government. Her family was forced to move to Ukraine. Now, in the U.S., Luba's house was destroyed as part of eminent domain. As our societies change, families are forced to move more frequently. The idea of a family homestead is harder to maintain. At least Frank and Luba were able to stay in their home during their lifetime.

*Parts of this story were narrated by Luba Oczej
5/2011 – 12/2013 (age 90)*

1 "Echoes of Tattered Tongues: Memory Unfolded" by John Guzowski



HELEN OCHEJ...

was born in a displaced person's camp in Germany after WWII, and lived there with her parents until she was 4 years old. In 1950, she immigrated to the United States and eventually lived in Williamsport, Pa. on Green Street. She attended local schools and graduated from Lycoming College with a degree in Biology. Helen is fluent in three languages:

Polish, English and German. She started her career by working in various labs as a research assistant. She eventually became an information specialist for MEDLINE at the National Library of Medicine. There, she succeeded in combining her language skills with her Biology training by indexing medical journals in Polish, English and German.

She is retired and lives in Rockville, Md. with her husband, David. They have one daughter, Anne, who lives in California. During her retirement, Helen has been researching her family history.

Marianna Ciraulo

by MARIANNA CIRAULO

Editor's Note: Ms. Ciraulo graciously presented this biographical sketch for our Journal at the request of the Editor, through her long-time friend and associate John Hunsinger. She pronounces her surname 'Cheer-ow-lo.'



Marianna Ciraulo was born to Lula Dye and Frank P. Ciraulo of Muncy, Pennsylvania on December 29, 1935 at 10:00 PM. She was their first-born child. She was loved and nurtured and went to sleep hearing songs sung to her in the arms of her father. He sang in the speakeasys of the day.

Within the next five years, two brothers, Fran and John, joined the family unit. At age 10, Marianna and her family moved to Williamsport, Pennsylvania. She went to Benjamin Franklin Elementary School and later to Curtin Junior High School. She became interested in singing in the classroom where music classes were directed by Miss Sims.

At the age of 14, Marianna's mother decided the time had come for a voice teacher to be found. This teacher was Helen Louise Reidy, a blind and most patient, encouraging and dauntless teacher who would type out the vocal exercises to be learned that week on her braille typewriter.

Recitals soon began. One memorable concert was performed in Montoursville High School for Music Week during the second year of study with Miss Reidy. This would be her public recital. Marianna said her fear was palpable. She was to sing Joyce Kilmer's *Trees*, but, unfortunately forgot all the words. The piano began the introduction and Marianna sang: *I think that I shall never see an opossum climbing up a tree*. Frantically, Miss Reidy

was saying the correct words from the side stage. It was never heard. In retrospect, I could tell who knew the song and who did not. The teachers were shaking with laughter and the senior classes were bored and quiet. Ah, my first performance....

The family moved to San Jose, California, for Marianna's junior year. The music teacher felt that she had talent and influenced her continued training by singing solos with the performing choir. She was chosen to perform the *Star-Spangled Banner* for the opening of the Western American League Baseball season. She stood in the middle of the field in front of teams, umpire and a full band. The next year, the family returned to Williamsport.

As Marianna prepared to audition for the high school chorus with a letter of recommendation from her teacher from San Jose, she stood in front of the existing choir and sang for Miss Riggle- a rather gruff, outspoken woman. When she finished singing, Miss Riggle loudly proclaimed "Absolutely not. My billy goat can sing better than that." Laughter filled the room and she left feeling humiliated.

The only singing that year was with the senior choir at St. Mark's Lutheran Church where she sang with her father under the director of Frederick Snell. But, the desire to go to college was great. With the encouragement of her mother, an appointment was made to meet with Walter G. McIver, Chairman of the Music Department of Lycoming College. Unable to read music, the thought of being accepted as a Music Major was a dream. After singing a simple hymn for the audition, Marianna was accepted. Now, how does one go to college with no money, little experience, but a strong will?

Life was very busy. Marianna took a heavy load of classes- 21 hours, varsity sports (field hockey, volleyball and baseball), the concert choir, a 40-hour work week at the Acme Supermarket on Washington Boulevard, and performed her very first opera that year. She sang Monica in Gian Carol Menotti's THE MEDIUM; and, Walter McIver taught her every note by rote.

These years at Lycoming were rich and filled with learning and self discovery. It became apparent that many, many people were becoming strong guiding forces in her life. Each person taking time to teach, advise and encourage so that she could fly. But none were more influential in her growth than Walter McIver. When he asked Marianna what she would like to do after graduation, she said "I want to sing."

Mr. McIver advised Marianna to study at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey, because there was a brilliant builder of Soprano voices there. Three years later and two more degrees (Bachelor and Master of Music) she majored in voice and choral conducting. Marianna toured with the elite choral group and performed in New York City at Carnegie Hall and Philharmonic Hall under the direction of such famed conductors as Leonard Bernstein, Sir John Barbarolli, Herbert von Karyon, and Thomas Schippers.

After graduation, Marianna and several classmates were hired to perform in a repertory group at the Arundal Opera Theatre in Kennebunkport, Maine (George Bush still has a summer home there). One week, she performed her first MADAMA BUTTERFLY; the next, Kathy in STUDENT PRINCE, the next, a dance hall girl in PAINT YOUR WAGON; the next, the Bird of Samarkand in ONCE UPON A MATTRESS; and so on. Lots of work, lots of fun and not much money.

The next several years were devoted to being the first female choral conductor at Plymouth-Whitemarch Junior-Senior High School on the outskirts of Philadelphia. While teaching Marianna began to sing opera with the Rittenhouse Opera Company, soloist with the Philadelphia Oratorio Society and church and synagogue. It was at this time she got a call to audition for a professional touring company performing THE SOUND OF MUSIC. It happened that one of the nuns

had to leave for Hollywood and a replacement was needed immediately. So on short notice, Marianna auditioned before the entire company and was hired at that time. She sang the part of the Postulant and was the understudy for Maria being played by Gloria Dehaven. So the hills were alive that summer up and down the East Coast.

In 1965, Marianna moved from Chestnut Hill (on the outskirts of Philadelphia near where Grace Kelly and her family moved) to New York City. Still studying voice and becoming more knowledgeable with opera and recital works, Marianna worked as Administrative Assistant in Pathology in the Brooklyn-Cumberland Medical Center. Then, she became assistant to the producer Max Wilcox at RCA Victor's Red Seal Division. She worked with such artists as Arthur Rubenstein, the Guarneri Quartet, Claud Frank, Van Cliburn, and Zinka Milanov. And, of course, singing in churches and synagogues.

As Florinda in Ginstera's "Don Rodrigo" (Debut)

"'Don Rodrigo' Suits Marianna Ciraulo" (Headline)

"The role in which Marianna Ciraulo made her debut with the New York City Opera, that of Florinda, is not easy. As in most contemporary opera, the vocal line is disjunct, declamatory rather than lyrical, over-ridden at times by heavy orchestration. The soprano coped perfectly with the musical problems. She has a voice that is highly concentrated, so that it carries easily. The singing was appealing in its sensitivity to dramatic moods, and Miss Ciraulo projected a personal style throughout the second act, in which she is the dominant figure.

The New York Times
October 29, 1970

"Marianna Ciraulo, in debut as Florinda, sang with a nicely concentrated intensity which augers much for her future."

CUE Magazine
November 7, 1970



Marianna C

Marianna still traveled to Philadelphia on occasion for singing engagements. One memorable performance was cause for world-wide publicity. One summer as she traveled on a very cold air-conditioned train, she developed laryngitis. Unable to sing and with no one to perform the role, the director asked her to mime the role on stage while another sang on microphone behind the backdrop. All this took place in the park in Rittenhouse Square. The park was packed with people even sitting in the trees. Shortly after the performance began, no one remembered the soprano as not really singing. This even was carried in all the major newspapers throughout the U.S. and Europe. Tony Randall wrote to his friend at RCA (Max Wilcox) and said "Here I am in Chicago performing in a play, and what do I read but our Miss Ciraulo making all the news."

Marianna was off to NYC and began work in Lincoln Center as Assistant to the Booking Director. Here she became friendly with the members of the New York Philharmonic because she saw them every day. Later in 1970, she got a call from a young conductor, Christopher Keene, asking if I would like to audition for the New York City Opera Company. Yes! Marianna had one week to learn the leading soprano's most dramatic aria and perform it for the heads of the company. Three days after singing the audition, she signed her contract. One month to the day, she was on stage performing her debut role of Florinda in Ginastera's DON RODRIGO. This opera was the classic story of how the Moors overran Spain.

Little did she know when she was greeting lines of people backstage at her dressing room door that she would be greeting 75 friends and neighbors who had travelled that same day from Williamsport to share in this exciting time in the life of one of their own.

Other operas followed:

- Madama Butterfly- Puccini
- Cavalleria Rusticana- Mascagni
- Louise- Charpentier
- Salome- Strauss
- Tosca- Puccini
- The Saint of Bleeker Street- Menotti
- Louisa Miller- Verdi
- Macbeth- Verdi
- Il Trovatore- Verdi

Reviews for performers are always a cause for mixed feelings; but, for some reviews make one's heart sing- so to speak. For her role as Lady Macbeth some reviewers compared Marianna's performances to that of Maria Callas and Dame Judith Anderson. Rather remarkable for a person who was not able to get in the chorus of Williamsport High School.

Marianna has sung from Maine to Florida and many places in between as well as England, Italy, Germany and Austria. But, in 1984, Marianna stopped performing opera. Her beloved husband, Dr. Abne Eisenberg, was lonely. Never would he ask her to stop singing or travelling even though she could be gone for months at a time with only letters and telephone calls. So after performing several months of Lady Macbeth in Virginia and Leonora in Il Trovatore in Philadelphia, everything came to a screeching halt. She stopped performing opera.

Their apartment in New York City was sold and a house was purchased in a little village 50 miles north of Manhattan called Croton-on-Hudson. It was just four miles north of Sing Sing prison- or "up the river" as the

As Cio-Cio-San in
"Madama Butterfly"

"Miss Ciraulo Bows as
Refreshing Butterfly"
(Headline)

"Marianna Ciraulo was a sympathetic Cio-Cio-San, her small-scaled performance refreshingly free of the stylized 'Japanese' mannerisms affected by so many sopranos. Miss Ciraulo's singing has sensitivity and line, her acting is marked by assurance and style."

The New York Times
May 1, 1972



old gangster movies used to say. To fill the artistic void, she returned to college and studied fine art. She now draws portraiture and nudes just for the fun of it. In 2010, the decision was made to move to Florida. While Abne continued to finish the semester at both City University of New York's Lehman College and Manhattanville College, Marianna found a spacious apartment in a condo in Belleair Bluffs. The condo is surrounded on three sides by the intercoastal waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

Their life style changed dramatically with new neighbors and a new journey for both. Life seemed so much like a never ending vacation. Abne continued his writing with becoming a regular contributor to two newspapers: *The Clearwater Gazette* and *The Senior Voice*. Unfortunately, his life was cut short after having a pacemaker implantation. He passed away in January of 2016. Since then, I have joined the cadre of many- the lone survivor. I feel he has gone before to prepare a place for me. I stand alone; but there are parts of me that would not be without him- or you- or you.

~ Bless you all

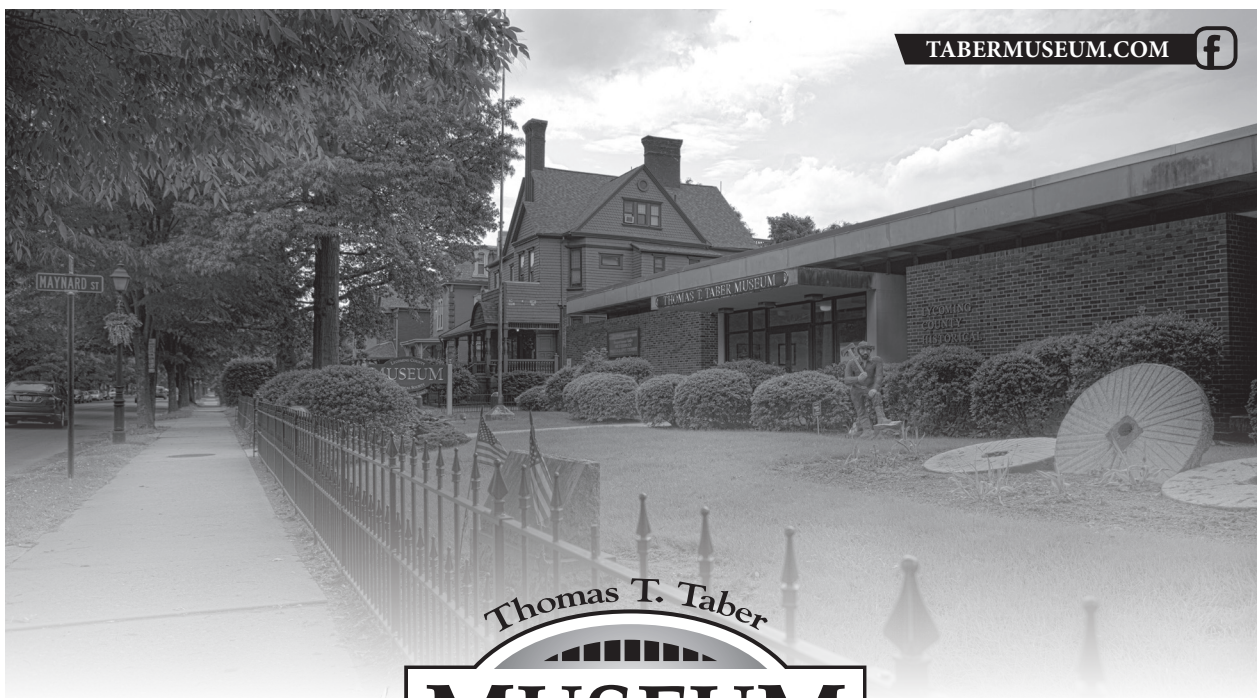
As Santuzza in "Cavalleria Rusticana"

"The Santuzza of Marianna Ciraulo was sung with expressive sensitivity."

Il Progresso
April 16, 1972

MARIANNA CIRAULO, young leading soprano of the New York City Opera, was born in Pennsylvania. A graduate of Lycoming College and Westminster Choir College, she had sung with several small opera companies and with a number of symphony orchestras before her debut with the New York City Opera in 1970. Besides her opera and concert performances, Miss Ciraulo is much-acclaimed in recital programs which include arias and songs in six languages.





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Marc Pompeo, *Member at Large*

Chuck Anderson
Eiderson Dean
Lisa DeVito

Bruce Huffman
Penny Lutz
John Piper

John Raymond
Carol Sones Shetler
Austin White

Museum Staff

Gary W. Parks, *Director, Editor*
Scott Sagar, *Curator of Collections*
Kimberly Taylor, *Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper*
Anne Persun, *Museum Store Manager/Front Desk Reception*
Patty Bowman and Ali Preston, *Part-time Reception/Cashier*
Recardo Strothers, *Custodian*

Volunteers

Tom Baird
Susan Baker
Galen Betzer
Jeff Byerly
Shirley Crawley
Pat Damaska
Joni Decker
Ashley Deitrick
Ruth Ditchfield
Aislinn Duhamel
Victor Engel
Linda Estupinan-Snook
Judy Fischer
Atom Gallup
Gary Fogelman
Jauzzle France
Roger Goodman
Sharon Goss
Maria Gustafson
Brad Hall
Emily Hemphill
Lucy Henry
Charles Hess, Jr.
Martha Huddy
John Hunsinger
Megan Kearns
Larry Keller
Don King
Shirley Knade

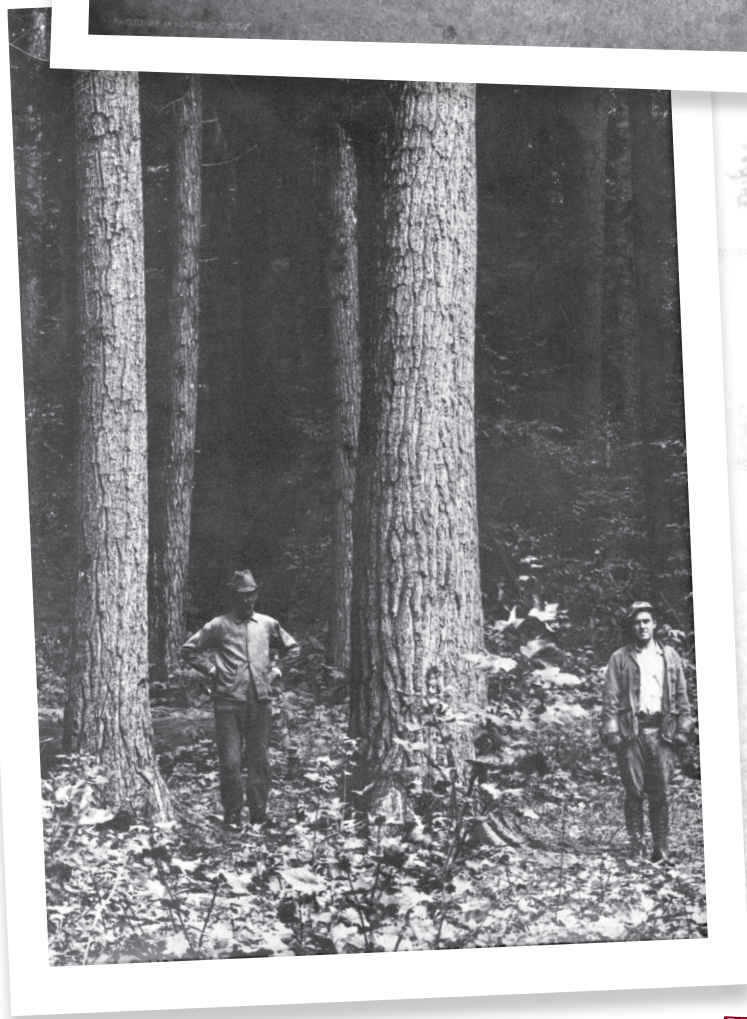
Joseph Kustanbauter
Carolyn Ludwig
Norman Ludwig
Mick Mann
Dorothy Maples
Joy McCracken
Ann McMahon
Rob Mueller
Dewey Oakes
Elizabeth Osborn
LaRue Pepperman
Charles Persun
Eleanor Phillips
Linda Phillips
Ashley Rall
Sandra Rife
Bruce Rogers
Bob Schildt
Mary Sieminski
Alicia Skeath
Julia Suchanek
Franklin Ulman
Robert Wallace
Doris Warren
Frances Warren
Marty Weaver
Glenn Williams

Jacob Afton (*Intern*)

GENEALOGY Volunteers

Kay Bitner
Vicki Enigk
Judy Fischer
Greg Forsburg
William Gibson
Tom Gouldy
Kitty Hofer
George Holmes
Michelle Koons
Louise Latsha
Mary Lyons
Nancy McCurdy
Karen Stotz Myers
Mary Sieminiski
Christine Smith
Helen Yoas

The Lycoming County Historical Society is a not-for-profit educational organization with a museum, library and archives; its purpose is to discover, collect, preserve and interpret the pre-historical, historical and cultural heritage of north central Pennsylvania.



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